

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 297

TUESDAY DECEMBER 14, 2010

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## OPINION METER

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## INSIDE



### Power 99 Turns 18

At a time when many establishments on Saipan are either downsizing or closing down, Power 99 FM forges ahead with yet another milestone.

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### Snow Storm

A powerful, gusty storm dumped mounds of snow across the upper Midwest on Sunday.

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Diego could have replaced Froilan; bills piling up. PAGE 3  
Completion of Saipan runway rehab extended to Oct. 2011. PAGE 5

# Fitia! Inos mend broken ties



» Governor leaves today for Palau to attend Micronesian chiefs' summit



Fitia!



Inos

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Five months after not talking to each other over policy differences, Gov. Benigno R. Fitia! and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos mended their broken ties during the weekend and jointly held a Cabinet meeting yesterday morning.

See FITIAL on Page 4

## RETIREMENT BILLS

NMI Retirement Fund board of trustees legal counsel Viola Alepuyo, second from left, gestures as she addresses members of the Senate Committee on Fiscal Affairs, while Fund board trustee Marian Tudela, left, administrator Richard Villagomez, and board trustee Francisco Rosario, right, listen during a Senate committee hearing on retirement bills yesterday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## TAX HIKE TAKES EFFECT

### Cigarettes could go up by \$2 a pack

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

crease of 25 cents per 20 sticks came into effect yesterday.

Division of Customs Service Director Jesus C. Muna, in a brief phone interview, said this came into effect as part

See CIGARETTES on Page 4

## Airport fails to achieve bond service ratio

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

costs in the last quarters of fiscal year 2010.

The airport division's failure to reach its target bond ratio resulted in CPA being non-compliant with federal standards.

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## DUE TO UNANTICIPATED COSTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority failed to achieve its target bond ratio for its airport division due to unanticipated

## \$58M growth in NMI business gross revenue

» 2nd quarter economic indicators report out

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

increase from \$395.72 million during the same period in 2009.

Businesses made \$58.14 million more in April to June this year compared to the same quarter last year.

The Department of Commerce's latest quarterly economic indicators report shows that CNMI business gross revenue totaled \$453.86 million in the second quarter of 2010, a 14.7-percent

Most economic indicators went down while visitor arrivals, average hotel occupancy rate and imports showed slight improvements.

Bank deposits dropped by \$13.08 million or from \$467.74 million to \$454.66 million, while bank loans went down from \$134.26 million to

See \$58M on Page 4



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# Local

## Limtiaco: Cyber-related crime involves child exploitation in Guam, CNMI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

One type of cyber-related criminal activity that has been happening in Guam and the CNMI involves child exploitation cases, according to U.S. Attorney for the District of Guam and the CNMI Alicia A.G. Limtiaco.

"You have the distribution of child pornography. That's happening within our district. That's against the law—to possess and distribute child pornography," Limtiaco told *Saipan Tribune*.

Limtiaco said the U.S. Attorney's Office provides out-

reaches and presentations with schools, youth groups, parents, and other community stakeholders on the dangers of the Internet and how children can be safe online.

"Prevention is the big key," she said, adding that perpetrators are trying to exploit children through the Internet because they're vulnerable or not aware of various scams.

The U.S. Attorney's Office sponsored a "Cyber Crime, Electronic Evidence, and Cyber Security Training" for local and federal law enforcement at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret on Thursday. It was a

first in the CNMI.

Limtiaco said other crimes through the use of Internet are the lottery and grant scams.

In the lottery scam, a person receives an e-mail that he or she has won a lottery. The perpetrator would then get the person's personal information.

In grant scams, Limtiaco said people would receive emails saying they are recipients of certain federal grants.

She said the perpetrators would instruct the "recipients" to provide certain personal information so they'll get thousands of dollars in federal grant.

Limtiaco said another scam

involves people advertising professional services for a fee.

She cited a scam involving emails coming from persons claiming to be relatives in distress or stuck in another country.

Limtiaco said it is very important that law enforcement improves upon and enhances its abilities to understand what types of technology are out there that perpetrators or criminals are using.

"Technology changes very, very quickly," she said.

"There's no physical borders when you talk about technology. That's why we have to come together."

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## Metro Guide in Tokyo



The **Marianas Visitors Authority** is reaching about to 1-million readers of the **Metro Guide** in **Tokyo**, featuring the second in a series of one-page advertorials in November 2011.

First featured in July 2010, the advertisement continued last month with "Marianas Islands for Seniors," targeting the silver market. The third installment about **Rota** was scheduled for distribution at 135 metro stations around Tokyo beginning last week. The **Metro Guide** also includes details on the March 5, 2011, Saipan Marathon as a recommended activity for seniors traveling from Japan.

In FY 2010, half of all visitors to the Northern Marianas were from Japan.

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This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune



## HAD SESSION NOT POSTPONED FOR 3RD TIME IN A WEEK

# Diego could have replaced Froilan; bills piling up

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Members of the House of Representatives expressed disappointment over the third postponement of their session in a week, not only because a change in leadership is likely but also because of critical bills piling up including revenue-generating measures and bills appropriating money for scholars and patients.

The first session was set for Dec. 7, but was rescheduled for Dec. 9, then for Dec. 13.

This has been rescheduled for Dec. 15, Wednesday, when Speaker Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) will still be off-island and won't be back until next week.

Only at least seven members of the majority were present,

including Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), shortly before acting Speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan) postponed the session yesterday.

On the other hand, there were a total of 10 Republicans and independents prepared to attend the session set for 10am yesterday.

"Had we called for reorganization, the minority could have easily defeated the majority, and Diego could have been speaker, 10-7," Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres, who used to be with the majority until his rift with the speaker over the Legislative Bureau director issue, said they needed at least one more member to call for a session even though the leadership decides to postpone one.

Besides Tenorio who is off-

island, Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) also had a medical treatment yesterday morning, making him miss the session had it not been postponed. Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan) came in late and could have also missed the session.

Demapan, in a brief interview, said he didn't want to miss the session were it not for a medical appointment.

Minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) and Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), in separate interviews, said they were disappointed not only because reorganization was imminent had the session been not postponed but also because critical measures and communications are piling up.

"I am disappointed because the postponements have been impacting important legislation.

The longer we delay the session, the more these bills will pile up," he said.

Benavente, a former speaker and lieutenant governor, said the bill calendar alone has 10 bills and initiatives; three local bills that need to be introduced to appropriate \$3 million for Saipan scholarship, \$12,000 for Rota patients, and \$52,000 for Tinian patients; one governor's veto that may be considered for override; and six bills from the Senate that need House action, among other things.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the Ways and Means Committee was not ready yet with its reports on NMI Retirement Fund bills, and this was the reason for postponing the session.

But members of the minority bloc were not buying this reason.

"Since when waiting for committee reports to be completed considered more important than bills that are already there on calendar?" Yumul said.

He said it's the purview of the leadership to call for, and postpone, sessions.

"But my concern is, bills are starting to pile up," said Yumul, whose pre-filed local bill appropriating \$3.26 million for scholarship and other Saipan pet projects could not be formally introduced without a House session.

He said one of the bills he introduced in March, calling for a development of a viable public

transportation system plan, sat on two committees for long and when it was taken out of the committee, was later removed from the calendar bill. He said he asked Senate President Paul Manglona (R-Rota) to introduce a similar bill instead, and that measure—Senate Bill 17-52, passed the Senate last Thursday.

"For me it doesn't matter whether it was me or someone else who sponsored a bill; what matters more is that the bill will help the general public," he added.

Benavente said Wednesday's rescheduled session could be postponed again, considering that the speaker will still be off-island and at least one Covenant Party member could also go off-island.

## TO MONITOR POSSIBLE PCB CONTAMINATION

## CUC to check on Isley Reservoir quarterly

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Beginning next month the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will be monitoring the Isley Reservoir every quarter to ensure that it is free from PolyChlorinated Biphenyls contamination.

"We are required by law to report on PCBs detected in our water sampling if the concentration exceeds a certain level. Three years ago—2007—there were no detects of PCB in any water sample," said CUC executive director Abe Utu Malae.

He, however, disclosed that on Oct. 1 a single sample from Isley Field Reservoir was found positive for PCB at a concentration of 10 ppb (parts per billion).

PCBs are a group of synthetic organic chemicals that contain 209 individual compounds known as congeners with varying harmful effects.

The MCL, or maximum contaminant level, allowed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is 0.5 ppb as averaged for all samples collected during the year.

Malae said that to find out if this was an anomaly or a contamination introduced by sampling, two more samples were taken from the reservoir last Oct. 14 and 19, respectively. Both samples were negative.

"Out of the four samples taken during the year, only this one was detected—and the average is 2.5 ppb," Malae said, adding that because of the PCB detect, CUC is required to sample each quarter for one year beginning January 2011.

Malae disclosed that if the samples come out negative or below 0.5 MCL for the year, then the next sample shall take place in three years, or 2014.

"This is not a serious matter of concern for now...but we

are following the law by making a formal announcement," he added.

Yesterday, CUC announced the affected areas of Isley Reservoir are portions of As Perdido, Chalan Piao, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, and Oleai.

"Our water system recently violated a drinking water standard. Although this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened, what you should do, and what we are doing to correct this situation," CUC stated in an announcement.

It was disclosed that water

samples collected from the said reservoir were sent to a laboratory in California for analysis.

CUC said that PCBs in drinking water can come from the runoffs from landfills or from the discharge of waste chemicals.

It added that some people who drink water containing PCBs in excess of the MCL over many years could experience changes in their skin, problems with their thymus gland, immune deficiencies, or reproductive or nervous system difficulties, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.

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# POWER 99

## FROM YOUR IT&E FAMILY!



## Villegas disappointed with NMC regents' decision

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

The remaining candidate for the presidency of Northern Marianas College admitted yesterday that he was disappointed with the Board of Regents' decision on Friday to re-open the position to a new pool of applicants.

With the promise, however, of "integrity, transparency, and efficiency" in the new hiring process, Rik Villegas hinted that he is considering resending his application.

"Obviously, I was disappointed that they didn't choose me and I don't know how they're going to pick somebody by the end of January," he told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Villegas was among the attendees in Friday's special board meeting but he was not around when the decision was announced after an hour of execu-

tive session. He said his presence at the meeting was by his own volition.

"I just came on my own...hoping to hear something from them," he said.

Last Dec. 3 the regents did a final interview with Villegas, who believes he gave the best answers to every question. Villegas was the remaining candidate for the post after Dr. Betty Boze withdrew her application.

NMC has not had a permanent president since Jan. 12 when the board suspended then-president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. She was terminated on April 12 and she later sued the college and the board. Her case is pending in court.

Villegas, who has been with the college since 1997 and has served numerous capacities, including instructor and Senate Faculty president, believes he is qualified to become the next NMC president.

"I decided to apply because there are

a number of challenges in the college. I love teaching and I love what I am doing now. My big concern is always the college community," he said.

He believes that with his skills and abilities, he can turn around the institution and give it improved status and standard.

Villegas is worried that appointing an NMC president from off-island will pose problems due to his or her unfamiliarity with the islands' values, culture, environment, and practice in general.

He said it would take a while for an off-island candidate to grasp and adjust to everything at the college and the island.

Villegas said he wants to develop a strong compelling vision for NMC and the community. "We need a focused direction...and I want to build it in the right values," he added.

## 'Ice' trafficking suspect caught violating curfew

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

A man who is on trial on "ice" trafficking charges was arrested Saturday afternoon in San Vicente for allegedly violating his curfew.

Police served George T. Manglona with an arrest warrant for contempt of court. Bail was set at \$1,000 cash.

He posted bail yesterday but then appeared again before Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona that same day for the continuation of his and co-defendant Ignacio A. Deleon Guerrero Sr.'s jury trial in the "ice" trafficking case.

CNMI Drug Enforcement Task Force Detective Roque K. Camacho stated in his report that Judge Manglona had modified Friday the terms and conditions of George Manglona's temporary release in the "ice" case. One of the conditions was for George Manglona to observe a daily curfew from 8pm to 7am.

Camacho said that Judge Manglona directed the Department of Public Safety to conduct routine checks to ensure that George Manglona is in compliance.

On Friday at 9pm, Camacho and two other detectives went to George Manglona's house in San Vicente for a routine check.

Camacho said the brother told them that George Manglona was sleeping in

the house.

When the detectives asked the brother to call George Manglona, the brother returned and told them that he was not inside the house.

Camacho said the suspect's mother, the third party custodian for George Manglona, told police that George Manglona had left the house with his girlfriend.

During Friday's trial, Judge Manglona placed the defendants under house arrest at the request of a prosecutor.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorfing asked for the house arrest, saying he was scared because George Manglona was upset with him after seeing him talk to a witness during the break.

At yesterday's continuation of the trial, the informant's reply to most of the questions raised by assistant attorney general Shelli Neal was that he does not recall or he doesn't remember.

Asked by Neal if he has concerns for his safety in testifying for the government, the informant replied: "Yes I do. Everyone does."

Detective Steven Castro testified that on Friday the informant was scared and was shivering.

Castro narrated how they managed to purchase "ice" from the defendants using the informant.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom, the detective was still on the witness stand.

## Alarm causes sleepless nights for some Gualo Rai residents

### » MARPAC apologizes, calls security agency to fix problem

A security alarm of a company in Gualo Rai had been going on and off since Saturday, causing sleepless nights for some village residents.

A resident told *Saipan Tribune* on Saturday that the security alarm at the Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc. (MARPAC) had been going on and off that day since 10am.

"Calls to the police have been fruitless; they say it is not their problem and

that the managers do not know how to fix it. In the meantime, everyone here in Gualo Rai is having sleepless nights. It is very annoying," the complainant said.

When asked for comment, MARPAC marketing manager Jojo Camacho said the G4S Security Services personnel were at their office yesterday afternoon to check on the burglary alarm.

Camacho said he only learned about the problem on Sunday.

"We called G4S and they are here today to help fix the problem," Camacho said.

He extended the company's apologies to residents in the area.

"We're doing the best we can to make sure that this will not happen again," he said. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

## AIRPORT

From Page 1

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the airport's actual revenue reached \$11 million, a smidgen higher than its projected revenue of \$10.8 million.

Expenses for the fiscal year, however, increased by about \$400,000 in the third quarter due to unbudgeted costs, continuing into the fourth quarter, resulting in CPA incurring over \$1 million in unanticipated expenses.

Among these were payments of \$103,000 for the added repair work for the baggage handling system; \$95,680

for the Allied Pacific Environmental Consulting Inc. soil contamination project; \$132,000 paid to the Internal Revenue Service; and \$68,000 paid to the U.S. Department of Labor for non-compliance issues.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that if not for the unexpected expenditures, the airport would have achieved bond ratio compliance.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said yesterday the unexpected expenditures were all necessary and would have placed CPA at risk if not addressed on time.

Deleon Guerrero said the airport division met the debt service ratio agree-

ment in fiscal year 2009.

### 'Seaport compliance'

In contrast, the seaport facilities were in full compliance with the rate covenant throughout fiscal year 2010.

During the first quarter, its rate was at 1.49 percent of their required net revenue. Projected net revenue was \$4.6 million, while the required revenue reported was \$3.9 million.

The division maintained compliance with the rate agreement at 1.46 percent in the second quarter and 1.38 percent in the third quarter.

As of year end, it was at 1.50 percent of required revenues.

## CIGARETTES

From Page 1

of a 2002 law requiring a 25-cent tax increase per pack of cigarettes eight years later.

"With the tax increase, wholesalers and stores are expected to also increase their prices. That means smokers will have to spend more to smoke," he said.

Some popular stores on Saipan are poised to increase their cigarettes by some \$2 a pack, which contains 20

sticks.

A pack of Doral, for example, which currently retails at \$3.15 a pack in some retail stores, could cost \$5.15 in a few days.

A Marlboro pack that currently retails at \$4.75 a pack in some retail stores could soon cost smokers \$6.75, retailers said last night.

Public Law 13-38, which increases the cigarette tax by 25 cents per 20 sticks, aims to restrict cigarette smoking in the CNMI where more than \$2 million is spent annually to treat diseases related to tobacco and alcohol use.

Under the law, 30 percent of the increase in cigarette tax, together with any penalties, forfeitures, interests, costs of suits and fines collected in connection with the same law, is deposited in a Tobacco Control Fund. The other 70 percent will go to the general fund.

This law is also in line with the Healthy People 2010 Initiative, which the CNMI has adopted, that aims to increase the national average of state and federal taxes on tobacco products to \$2 by year 2010.

went up from 89.21 tons to 89.24 tons.

The number of commercial and residential telephone lines sharply dropped to 24,419 from 29,526 in the second quarter.

The value of commercial, residential and government construction also plummeted from \$10.14 million involving 35 projects to only \$3.19 million involving 41 projects in April to June.

Commerce's Central Statistics Division released the quarterly economic indicators report, with contributions from CNMI government agencies and private sector groups.

in April to June.

The average hotel daily rate slightly dropped from \$91.40 to \$89.26 in the second quarter, while the average hotel occupancy rate slightly went up from 50 percent to 53 percent.

Government collection from taxes and fees increased from \$33.340 million to \$39.070 million in April to June, while government spending dropped slightly from \$38.27 million to \$37.8 million.

Total imports of petroleum, oil, lubricant, cement, garment, food items, construction materials and beverages slightly

## \$58M

From Page 1

\$125.01 million. The loan-to-deposit ratio went from 28.7 percent to 27.5 percent.

Remittances—the sending of money overseas—slightly dipped from \$16.2 million to \$16.1 million in the second quarter. Vehicle sales also slightly went down from 203 to 195.

Visitor arrivals posted the highest increase of 10.7 percent among economic indicators, or from 73,764 to 81,642

## FITIAL

From Page 1

Fitial, at the same time, will leave today for Koror, Palau to attend the Dec. 15 to 17 Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit.

Inos takes over as acting governor while Fitial is away.

The governor is joined in Palau by first lady Josie Fitial, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, and press secretary Angel Demapan, who left yesterday ahead of Fitial. Fleming and Demapan will be the CNMI's participants for the Micronesia Center for a Sustainable Future.

Cabinet members and lawmakers, meanwhile, welcomed the news that Fitial and Inos are now in speaking terms again. They also expressed hope that more focus will be put into improving governance and the economy. The 17th Senate and House leaderships have also been at odds.

Demapan, when asked for comment before leaving for Palau yesterday, said the governor and lieutenant governor "agreed to work together."

"After a private meeting over the weekend, Governor Fitial and Lt. Governor Inos both led [Monday's] cabinet meeting and announced their pledge to foster a renewed spirit of cooperation to give the people of the Commonwealth the highest standard of public service that they deserve and expect from their elected leaders," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Some Cabinet members present at the meeting also said Fitial and Inos sat down together with them.

Fitial and Inos' rift reportedly stemmed from their opposing stance on the employment Ambrosio Ogomoro at the Department of Public Safety, as well as differences over hiring policies and awarding of contracts, including the no-bid, sole-source contract awarded to Michael Ada for the management of the American Recovery and Rein-

vestment Act program in the CNMI.

Demapan said Fitial and Inos "indicated that a tremendous amount of work still needs to be done in terms of addressing our ailing economy and resolving the government financial struggles."

"As we approach the holiday season, the governor and lieutenant governor are determined to embrace the spirit of the season with renewed hope and faith in carrying out their commitment to serve the people of the Northern Mariana Islands. They went right to work in this morning's cabinet meeting as they discussed and addressed the CNMI's pressing matters and the continuing financial constraints of the government," the press secretary added.

During the Cabinet meeting, Fitial and Inos reminded Cabinet members "of the need to be vigilant in ensuring that the administration's goals and objectives are carried out to the fullest extent possible."

### Palau summit

Fitial's trip to Palau this week will be his second official off-island travel in just a few weeks.

The 14th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit in Palau opens tomorrow and wraps up on Friday.

Fitial is the current summit chairman and will turn over the chairmanship to Palau President Johnson Toribiong at the start of tomorrow's summit.

Toribiong, in a statement, said the 14th Summit "presents an excellent opportunity to consider substantive improvements to our processes and procedures."

The summit brings together the presidents of the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Marshall Islands, as well as the governors of the CNMI, Guam, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap, to address common concerns and work on solutions on a host of issues that include healthcare, tourism, military buildup, and alternative energy.



# Completion of Saipan runway rehab extended to Oct. 2011

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**  
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REPORTER

From the initial target completion of December this year, the rehabilitation of the Francisco S. Ada/Saipan International Airport's main runway has been extended to about a year and is now expected to be operational by October 2011.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board approved last Friday some change orders for the project, which is funded by the Federal Aviation

Administration.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said the board's actions follow the FAA's pre-approval of the supplemental requests.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed that a notice to proceed has already been issued to the contractor—Guam Pacific Power Corp. Inc.—and construction work is slated to begin today.

During the construction period, the main runway would remain operational and will be able to accommodate large air-

crafts because construction will be stopped during regular flight schedules. The smaller aircraft, meantime, will use the newly built taxiway, which was completed for the purpose.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that the runway construction, based

on the revised construction schedule, will require eight hours of work in the morning (5am to 1pm) and eight hours in the evening (from 4pm to 12am). Overall duration of the project is 297 calendar days, from the previous six months.

Due to the new construction schedule and other additional requirements, the project's total cost was also amended from \$12.4 million to \$13.9 million.

*Saipan Tribune* learned that GPPC Inc. was awarded the

construction contract on Sept. 21, 2009. This contract involves rehabilitation of runway 7/25 to include milling of existing runway, taxiway, blast pad and shoulder pavements, asphalt concrete overlay and other works.

## Sobriety checkpoints this weekend

The Department of Public Safety's Traffic Section will be conducting DUI sobriety checkpoint this upcoming weekend, Dec. 17 to 19, 2010.

On Friday, Dec. 17, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Multi-Purpose Building, on the northbound lane, from 9pm to 10:15pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Kanoa in front of the Super Fresh Market, on the northbound lane, from 11:30pm to 12:45am, early Saturday morning on Dec. 18.

The third checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold highway by the CNMI Museum on the northbound lane, from 1:45am to 3:45am of Dec. 18.

On Saturday, Dec. 18, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Chalan Laulau by Dr. Kaipat's residence on the southbound lane, from 7:30pm to 8:45pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico by the U.S. Army Reserve Center on the southbound lane, from 10pm to 11:15pm.

The third checkpoint will be

on Beach Road Garapan across Bank Pacific, on the southbound lane, from 1am to 2:15am, early Sunday morning on Dec. 19.

On Sunday, Dec. 19, the first checkpoint will be on Beach Road Susupe in front of the Minatchom Atdao pavilion on the southbound lane, from 4:30pm to 5:45pm.

The second checkpoint will be on Cahlan Pale Arnold, Garapan across the Upper Miha Estate on the southbound lane, from 6:30pm to 7:45pm.

The third checkpoint will be on Beach Road San Jose in front of the Morgan Building on the northbound lane, from 8:30pm to 9:45pm.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour 15 minutes) at each location.

In addition, police officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser activities.

If you know you can't drive, call the 3D hotline at 898-HELP OR 898-SAVE.

This activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all operators abide the law. (DPS)

## Ex-cop gets more time to prepare for trial

The federal court yesterday granted the request of a former police officer facing charges of selling methamphetamine or "ice" that he be given more time to prepare for trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge William Fremming Nielsen determined that the "ends of justice would be served" by allowing Florencio Q. Richards more time to review the evidence in prepara-

tion for trial.

The jury trial will now be on Feb. 7, 2011 at 9am. The original date was yesterday, Dec. 13.

The 32-year-old Richards, who waived his right to a speedy trial, asked for the trial's postponement to give his lawyer, Michael Evangelista, time to prepare for the case.

According to the indictment, Richards and others conspired

sometime in July 2010 to July 15, 2010, to distribute "ice" in exchange for money and other things of value.

During these transactions, he allegedly had a Smith & Wesson 9 millimeter semi-automatic handgun under the seat of his pickup truck.

The CNMI Joint Drug Task Force arrested Richards and Belinda O. Omengkar on July 15, 2010, for alleged

trafficking and possession of "ice." The two were inside a 1993 Hilux pickup truck parked at the Garapan Fishing Base At the time, Richards was off-duty.

Richards and Omengkar have pleaded not guilty to the charges filed separately in the Superior Court.

In the federal court case, Richards also pleaded not guilty. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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# Alaska Brass entertains Saipan with free concert

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@yahoo.com  
REPORTER

The U.S. Air Force Band of the Pacific's Alaska Brass gave Saipan residents an unforgettable musical entertainment on Dec. 12 with a free concert at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

Alaska Brass, the musical group from Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, came to Saipan for the first time and played an exciting repertoire that included timeless classics as well as Christmas tunes. As an encore, the Alaska Brass performed the official music of the various Armed Forces services, to the delight of the audience.

The talented ensemble was composed of Technical Sgt. John Rider, who plays tuba; Staff Sgt. Craig Matta, French



The six-member Alaska Brass Band pose for a group photo after their performance Sunday afternoon at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater.

horn; Staff Sgt. Mark Nixon and Richard McMaster, trumpet; Staff Sgt. Brandon Richard, drums; and Staff Sgt. George Father, trombone.

In an interview, Rider said they saw a window of opportunity for the group to perform on

island since they had few extra days before their official function at Guam's Anderson Air Force Base on Dec. 18.

Rider, who is also in charge of the group's publicity, said Richard got in touch with the American Memorial Park and the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, which arranged for their concert on Saipan.

"We made a trip to Saipan while we're here because we had some extra time and we've never done it before. We wanted to do a little more outreach," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Rider said their group played music for the elderly, the elementary and junior high school students on Rota then flew to Saipan for the free concert.

Besides the concert, Alaska Brass also performed at Marianas High School yesterday

morning before they flew back to Guam at noon.

According to Rider, performing on Saipan is akin to the outreach they conduct in Alaska where they visit about 228 villages.

"We've done this a good bit and I have to tell you it's a little similar when we go out because we see different people... It's really nice we get to meet and talk to a lot of people and make new contacts," he added.

Rider said the group enjoyed their first performance on Saipan and looks forward to their second visit, hopefully by next year.

"We have some people that are trying to get us back here in October of next year so hopefully we can come back sooner," he said.

Rider thanked everyone who

attended their free concert and for the warm welcome that Saipan has shown them.

"We appreciate them very

much for coming out. We know we made some good friends and we certainly hope to come back," he said.

## NMI to protect its sharks from the shark fin trade

WildAid and Shark Savers, two international conservation groups working to protect sharks from overfishing, applaud the CNMI Senate's vote to outlaw the shark fin trade.

The bill was originally introduced by Rep. Diego T. Benavente in the CNMI House of Representatives, where it was approved on Nov. 17.

The bill recognizes sharks to be "an essential element of the ocean's ecosystem" because of their role as apex predator of the sea. It seeks to stop the severe overfishing of sharks that occurs worldwide in order to feed the status-driven demand for shark fin soup.

The bill makes it "unlawful for any person to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in the CNMI." The bill is similar to one recently passed in Hawaii. If signed into law, the CNMI will join another Pacific island nation, Palau, which has also taken a bold stand to protect its nation's sharks.

"The Senate's move today takes the CNMI one step closer to stopping the shark fin trade, perhaps the most wasteful and destructive practice affecting ocean life," said Peter Knights of WildAid. "It's heartening to see

the CNMI taking the lead among Pacific island nations to adopt tough anti-shark-fin-trade laws to protect their nation's wildlife and resources from such destruction."

The bill goes on to explain that sharks are especially vulnerable to overfishing because they reproduce slowly. It is the combination of overfishing and inability to overcome it via reproduction that has resulted in alarming shark population declines in recent decades.

"Increasingly, the countries most dependent on the ocean are rallying to the defense of sharks, perhaps the ocean's most important inhabitants," said Michael Skoletsky, of Shark Savers. "The CNMI's intelligent decision to preserve sea life will benefit future generations and attract lucrative underwater tourism, rather than allowing foreign fisheries and shark fin cartels to plunder its resources."

The bill still needs to be reconciled with the slightly different version approved by the House before being signed into law by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

Up to 73 million sharks are killed annually for their fins, with some shark populations declining by as much as 90 percent. (PR)

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Ofisinan I Gubietno  
Dipattamenton I Tano' Pubpliku

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSIONS FOR PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (a) and (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to recommend the extensions of leases on certain public lands in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. These lease extensions are subject to the approval of the Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature in accordance with the mandate set out in Article XI, § 5(c) of the Constitution of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

- i. The leased premises are described as public land Lot Nos. 057 E 09, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, and 057 E 10, containing an area of approximately 3,245 square meters, more or less, both situated in Lower Base, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands for inspection.
- ii. The lessee is South Pacific Lumber Company, a CNMI Corporation. The Board of Directors of the Corporation are James C. Whang and Charles C. Whang.  
  
The President/Secretary/Treasurer of the Corporation is James C. Whang. The Vice President is Charles C. Whang.
- iii. The proposed lease extension was negotiated by Mr. James C. Whang.
- iv. The lessee shall continue to use the premises solely for the purpose of operating warehouses, office spaces and show rooms.  
  
The term of the lease agreement extensions is 15 years.  
  
The proposed annual rental during the term is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the properties.
- v. Copies of the proposed lease extension agreements may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public lands in Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before December 24, 2010 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NOTISIA POT MAPROPONEN INEKSTENDEN INATKILON TANO' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106(a) yan (b) gi Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku guini ha nã'i notisia ni intension-na para u rekomenda i inekstenden inatkilon gi pumalu na tâno' pubpliku siha giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Isla Marianas siha. Este na inekstenden atkilon siha manmasuheto para i inapreban i Lehislaturan Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islan Marianas gi sigun ni mamânda ni mapega huyong gi Attikilu XI, § 5(c) gi Konstitusion i Sangkattan na Islan Marianas siha. Maseha hãyi na petsona siha gi halom i pubpliku henerât siña ha na'hãlom i infotmasion, opiñon, pat testamoñon kinentra siha gi tinahguen propositu siha ni para i atkilon tâno' pubpliku. Sigi mäs mo' na mapribeniyi ginen i Lain Pubpliku 15-2, i tinattitiyi pettanesen infotmasion ni madimânda ni debi na u mapupblika.

- i. I lugât atkilon siha madeskribe komu tano' pubpliku Lot Nos. 057 E 09, kinonsiste ârian kâsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mäs, yan 057 E10, kinonsiste âria kâsi guaha 3,245 square meters, potlumenus mäs, parehu gaige gi Lower Base, Saipan. I kopian i pumalu na lugât gaige na gumuaha gi Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha ni para i rikonosimientto.
- ii. I manatikikila i Kompanian i South Pacific Lumber, i CNMI Corporation. I Kuetpon i Direktot i Corporation siha si James C. Whang yan si Charles C. Whang.  
  
I Presidente/sekritário/Tresureron i Corporation si James C. Whang. I Segundo na Presidente si Charles C. Whang.
- iii. I mapropone na ekstension atkilon manegosio gi as Siñot James C. Whang.
- iv. I manatikikila debi na u kontinua umusa i lugât siha uniku para i rason i maneran warehouses, kâmpo ofisina siha yan show rooms.  
  
I teman i kontrâtan atkilon ha ekstende gi 15 âños.  
  
I mapropone na atkilon säkkan durânten i tema sigun i percentage gi bâlen i fair market value gi propiadât siha.
- v. Kopian i manmapropone na ekstension atkilon na kontrâta siha siña machule' gi ofisinan i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha, gaige i segundo bibienda 2nd floor gi Joeten Dandan Commercial Building giya Dandan, Saipan; Songsong, Luta; pat i primet 1st floor gi Kings Commercial Building, Tinian.
- vi. I Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha tâya' ha risibi tinahguen propositu siha para suheton atkilon tâno' pubpliku siha giya Lower Base, Saipan.
- vii. I Sekritâron i Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha debi na u akseptä i tinige' i infotmasion, opiñon yan testamoñon kinentra pat tinahguen propositu siha ginen i manggai interes na pattida siha gi pat ântes di Disembre 24, 2010 gi ofisinan Dipattamenton Tano' Pubpliku siha ni gaige Saipan, Luta, pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL POMWOL AKKILONUL FALÚWEER TOULAP

Sángi Tálil ye 106 (b) mellól Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyool Ammwilil Falúweer Toulap ekke atotoowow ammatat igha ebwe akkilaaló eghús falúw mellól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúwasch Marianas. Kkapasal akkilon ye e sobwosobw nge ebwe alughulugh mereel Northern Mariana Islands Commonwealth Legislature sangi Article XI, Talil 5(c) mellol Allegh Lapalap Commonwealth Teel faluw kka faluwasch Efang Marianas. Schóókka eyoor máfiyeer rebwe isisilong aghiighiir, aweewe, aingiingil reel pomwol akkilonul ammwelil falúweer toulap me bwal Alléghúl Toulap ye 15-2, e ayoorä, lamal aweewe kka rebwe mweiti ngáli milikka ebwe akkatééló.

- i. Pomwol akkilonul falúweer toulap nge ekke bwáári Lot No. 057 E 09, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3, 245 square meters), elapeló me ngäre eghús, me 057 E 10, eyoor eluuw sangaras ruwabwughuw faigh me limwoow (3,245 square meters) elap me ngäre eghus, elo Lower Base, Seipél. Tilighial bwuley yeel nge eyoor mereel Bwulasiyool Falúweer Toulap (Public Lands) ngäre óubwe ghuley fischiy.
- ii. Schéschéél schóól akkilon nge South Pacific Lumber Company, CNMI corporation. Schóóy Assamwoolul mwiisch (board of directors) mellól corporation nge James C. Whang me Charles C. Whang..  
  
Samwoolul/Treasurer/Sekretorial corporation nge James C. Whang. Aruscheyil samwool nge Charles Whang.
- iii. Schóól aweweel akkilon nge Mr. James C. Whang..
- iv. Schóól akkilon ebwe yááli bwuley reel ammwelil warehouse (sokko), office spaces (leliyal bwulasiyo) me leliyal akkate (show rooms)..  
  
Tool aighúghúl pomwol akkilon nge reweigh me limoow ráágh (25 years).  
  
Pomwol akkilon yeel llól alongal ráágh nge ebwe mwir sáangi llapal méél falúw ( value of the property) me bwal meeta kka e akkayú mellol bwuley yeel.
- v. Tilighial akkilon yeel nge emmwel óubwe bwughi mereel bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap, elo aruwowal pwó (2nd floor) me Joeten Dandan Commercial Building llól Tuturam, Seipél; Songson, Luta; me ngäre mmwal pwó (1st floor) mellól Kings Commercial Building, Tchélúyól.
- vi. Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge esáál bweibwogh mwo pomwol akkilon ye elo Lower Base, Seipél..
- vii. Samwoolul Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap nge ebwe bwughil ischil mángemáng, aingiingil mereel amweyút mmwal December 24, 2010 (Tumwur) mellól Bwulasiyool Ammwelil Falúweer Toulap iye elo Seipél, Luta, Tchélúyól.

Limtiaco:  
DOJ vows  
to combat  
cyber crime

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRES**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Alicia A.G. Limtiaco, the U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the NMI, said the U.S. Department of Justice is committed to a strong and co-ordinated response to confront, combat and prevent cyber crime.



Limtiaco

Limtiaco said DOJ continues to seek improvement of cyber security to protect the public's safety and economic well-being of domestic and international community.

Limtiaco cited the work of DOJ's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section, which is "responsible for implementing DOJ's national strategies in combating computer and intellectual property crimes worldwide" through prevention, investigation, and prosecution of computer crimes.

This, she said, has been done by working with law enforcement and other government agencies, the private sector, educational institutions, and community stakeholders.

The U.S. Attorney sponsored the "Cyber Crime, Electronic Evidence, and Cyber Security Training" for local and federal law enforcement at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret, a first in the CNMI. The training was also held with the CNMI Bar Association on that same day.

Howard W. Cox, an assistant deputy chief of the DOJ's Criminal Division's Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section in Washington, D.C., conducted the training.

In a statement, Limtiaco said the purpose of the training is to enhance and build upon the legal, investigative and forensics skills set of law enforcement, as every crime will eventually have some component or involvement of electronic of digital evidence.

She said Cox presented to law enforcement on the topics of emerging technologies, cyber crime, electronic evidence and computer forensics, and cyber security.

Limtiaco and the U.S. Attorney's Office also provide outreaches and presentations with schools, youth groups, parents, and other community stakeholders on bullying, cyberbullying and sexting, and on prevention and awareness such as the dangers of the Internet and online safety tips.

Flashback  
A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 14, 1998

Estate tax bill set for House vote

The House of Representatives is expected to pass a revenue-generating bill that will impose a local tax of up to 16 percent on the estate of island residents inherited by their heirs, according to legislators. Rep. Karl T. Reyes, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, said the measure pending before the panel will cover the multimillion dollar assets of the late Larry Hillblom. If the Hillblom estate in the Northern Marianas is pegged at \$200 million, the island government will earn at least \$30 million in tax assessed under the proposal, he said. "It could be bigger money," Reyes told in an interview Friday after meeting with members of the Ways and Means Committee to discuss House Bill 11-326 for possible immediate action on the floor.

Dynasty named defendant in \$2.5M damage suit

Former House speaker Pedro R. D.L. Guerrero has filed a \$2.5 million damage suit against Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and 10 of its employees for allegedly assaulting and falsely accusing him of creating public scandal at the establishment. Guerrero filed the suit Friday at the Superior Court through counsel Douglas F. Cushnie. Court documents showed the incident occurred on July 28, 1998 when Guerrero and friends Candido Castro and Placido Tagabuel went to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino to play poker. At about 4:30 p.m. of the same day, the three have decided to leave the casino to catch a plane back to Saipan. But just before they could have left, Guerrero stopped to play at the high and low table.

Dec. 14, 1999

Go easy on Rota school project, OPA tells PSS

The Office of the Public Auditor has cautioned the Public School System against taking over the completion of a school project on Rota without an evaluation of the unfinished portion in view of the differences in the construction costs. In a disclosure report on Rota's Sinapalo Elementary School project, Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte advised PSS officials to seek independent appraiser as well as legal opinion before taking over its construction. According to OPA chief, PSS must establish actual construction costs as the figures provided by the Department of Public Works do not match with the estimates from its financier, SNM Corp. which owns the Rota Resort and Golf Country Club.

Volunteer group eyed to protect Managaha

The Division of Environmental Quality has proposed creation of a community-based volunteer group to help government authorities enforce regulations of the planned marine conservation area in Managaha and surrounding waters. DEQ Director Ignacio V. Cabrera said this assistance from grassroots level will lead to the success of the project for the protection of the island's fish and wildlife as well as other marine resources. "If this important step of the process is not done with the participation and support of the community, it is not likely to succeed," he said in his testimony presented to the House Natural Resources Committee.

Dec. 14, 2000

Credibility of FTZ nominee questioned

Rep. Stanley T. Torres yesterday prodded the Senate to look into allegations leveled against one of the governor's nominee to a government body overseeing implementation of the free trade zones in the CNMI. In a letter to a Senate President Paul A. Manglona, he cited an anonymous letter questioning the credential of George Fleming Jr. who is representing the private sector to the board of the Free Trade Zone Authority. The anonymous letter, signed by an individual calling himself or herself "justa concerned citizen," has raised concerns about the board's credibility and integrity if Mr. Fleming assumes office because of a purported criminal case filed against him in 1991.

3D campaign helps curb traffic-related fatalities

Traffic-related fatalities on Saipan have dropped in the last three years as a result of stepped up campaign on road safety, the Department of Public Safety disclosed in a report yesterday. Road accidents, according to statistics, resulted to eight fatalities in 1998, three cases of which involved alcohol. The succeeding year, authorities recorded two traffic-related fatalities but noted 291 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol. As of September 2000, two adults and one child already died due to traffic mishaps. During the first three quarters, 297 have also been taken in for DUI.



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| ✓ <b>Gold Watch Bands</b> ..... up to \$1,000 | ✓ <b>Gold Earrings</b> ..... up to \$200        | ✓ <b>Gold Pocket Watches</b> ..... up to \$750   | ✓ <b>Gold Brooches</b> ..... up to \$1,000      |
| ✓ <b>Gold Wedding Bands</b> ..... up to \$350 | ✓ <b>Dental Gold</b> ..... up to \$900          | ✓ <b>Gold Link Bracelets</b> ..... up to \$2,500 | ✓ <b>Gold Coins</b> ..... up to \$15,000        |
| ✓ <b>Gold Bangles</b> ..... up to \$850       | ✓ <b>Gold Scrap</b> ..... up to \$1,250         | ✓ <b>Gold Broken Chains</b> ..... up to \$1,000  | ✓ <b>Gold Bars</b> ..... up to \$15,000         |
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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER  
Volume XX, Issue No. 297Published daily at 2/F JP Center,  
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR  
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

## EDITORIAL

### Lighten up? Fat chance

By NEAL BARNARD

PHYSICIANS COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE MEDICINE

**T**he federal government has announced its new health goal: Americans will be slimmer by the year 2020. That's according to Healthy People 2020, a plan recently released by the Department of Health and Human Services.

If any reader believes there's a snowball's chance in hell of that happening, please raise your hand.

As a physician and nutrition researcher, I share your skepticism. When America steps on the scale a decade from now, I predict that we will be even heavier—and more unhealthy—than we are today. And the federal government itself will deserve a good portion of the blame.

Here's what I mean. Even as the government released its new health goals, the Department of Agriculture was already getting ready to renew its subsidies for fatty cheese, sugar and feed grains for livestock, all of which will make Americans fatter than ever. In the new year, Congress will take up the farm bill, which aims to shore up these fatty-food subsidies even more.

It's time to wake up and smell the lard. Our diets are killing us. The average American now eats 75 pounds more meat and 30 pounds more cheese each year, compared with a century ago. We're eating more sugar and oils, too. Where are we putting it? The inevitable result is ever-worsening obesity.

Ten years ago, the Healthy People 2010 plan aimed to reduce the toll of obesity, which then included one in four Americans. Ten years later, obesity prevalence had climbed to one in three.

For a glimpse of where we are headed, look at children today. One in three is now overweight. One in five teens has an abnormal cholesterol level. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one-third of everyone born in the year 2000 will eventually develop diabetes.

The toll is not just personal. It's also financial. Unhealthy people make for huge health care expenditures. The current health-care budget is enormous and threatens to overwhelm our ability to afford it.

An analysis released just before Thanksgiving estimates that more than half of all Americans will be either diabetic or prediabetic by 2020, costing our health care system \$3.35 trillion.

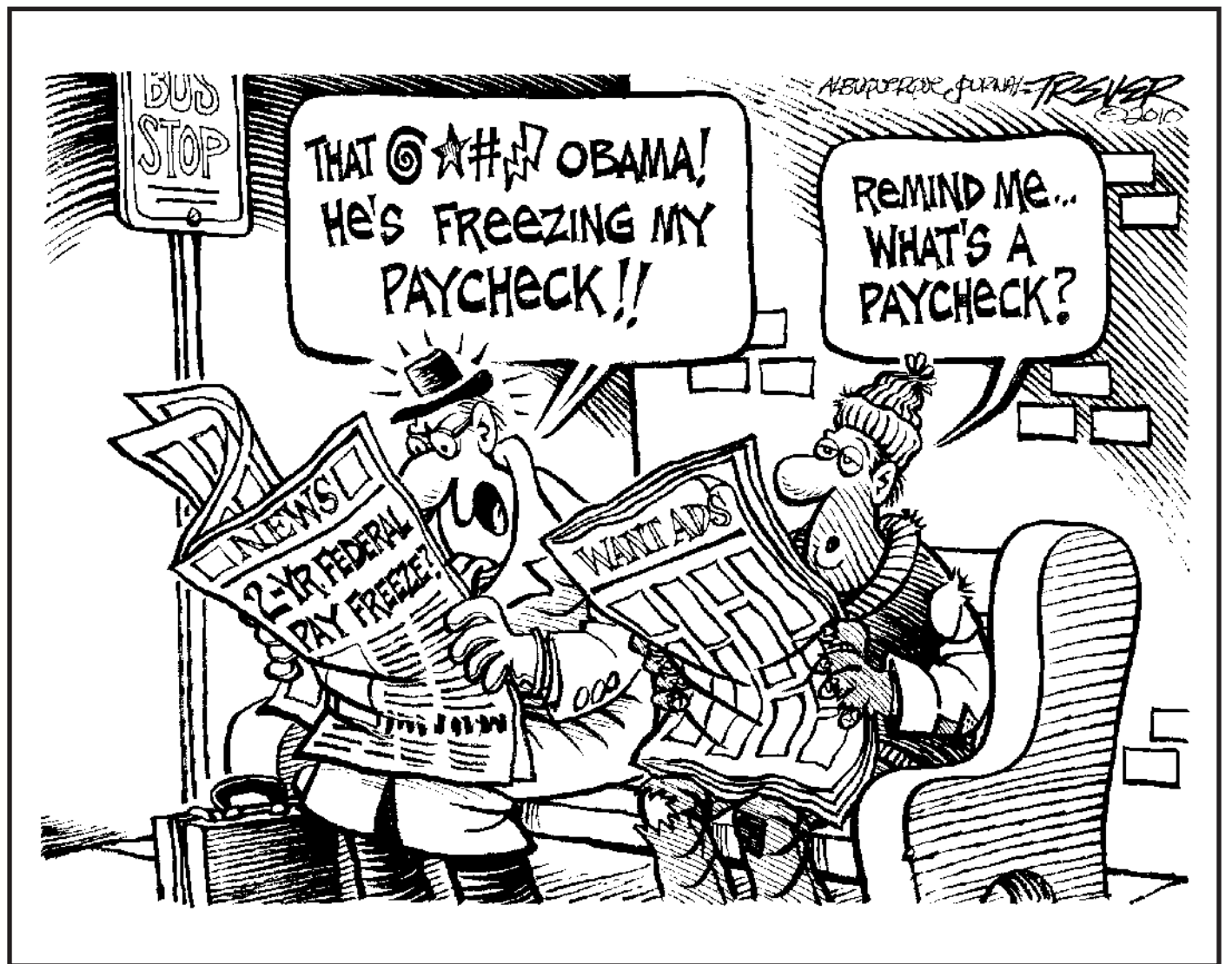
Yes, trillion.

It's abundantly clear that if current trends continue, we will be an even fatter, sicker nation—with an even more strained health care system—a decade from now.

If the government is serious about getting America in shape by 2020, it must update the farm bill based on what we know about diet and disease. The new legislation must facilitate the production and consumption of fruits, vegetables and whole grains—foods that fend off disease and protect our health. And it should end all payouts for animal feed.

If the government wants to reduce obesity by 2020, it should start by not subsidizing it.

*Neal Barnard is a nutrition researcher and president of the vegan organization Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine.*



## In Balkans, no memorials for victims of massacres

By RACHAEL IRWIN and VELMA SARIC  
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

**SARAJEVO, Bosnia**—The small cream-colored house sits on an expanse of grass, slightly removed from the rest of the buildings that comprise this iron ore mine in northeastern Bosnia.

These days, there is nothing to indicate that more than 3,000 Bosnian Muslims and Croats were tortured, raped and murdered here in what has become known as the White House between May and August 1992 after Bosnian Serb forces captured the town of Prijedor.

All over Bosnia, there are the sites of similar atrocities. Most lack any kind of formal memorial to commemorate them.

Observers say that this reflects a reluctance by the ethnic group whose members committed the crimes to acknowledge that they occurred at all.

Transitional justice experts warn that this not only affects the survivors' ability to come to terms with their past but also harms efforts aimed at promoting future coexistence. In some cases where memorials have been established, they reflect a partisan interpretation of history, which only deepens existing divisions.

There can be little doubt over the events that took place at the Omarska camp, as it became called. It was featured in several trials at the Hague tribunal, where judges found that "the prisoners were fed little, the food was usually rotten, and they had almost no water." Women prisoners were raped—often repeatedly—and in one documented instance a man was forced to bite off the testicle of a fellow prisoner.

Detainees were regularly brought to the White House and, according to tribunal records, "tortured in front of each other. Sometimes they were made to beat one another. A father was beaten to death in front of his son. The men shrieked with pain. There was blood on the walls and on the ground."

Omarska was closed in August 1992 after journalists exposed conditions in the camp and photographs of the emaciated prisoners sparked an international outcry. Today, a mine continues to operate at the site.

"If you go to (Omarska) and you are not accompanied by someone who has been there, you would not have a clue what happened there," said Satko Mujagic, a survivor of the camp who immigrated to the Netherlands in 1993.

"If you look at what happened there in only three months—how many people were killed and under what circumstances—we really need this place to be preserved," he said.

Victims' advocacy groups say the same thing about other camps

in the area—most notably Trnopolje and Keraterm—where several thousand non-Serbs were subjected to "abusive and inhuman conditions" and "tormented relentlessly," tribunal judges found.

The victims' groups say they are eager to create memorials on the grounds of these and other camps in what is now the Serbian part of Bosnia, but have so far been unsuccessful. In most cases, they say they have been denied access to these places by local Bosnian Serb officials.

Rajko Vasic, the secretary general of the ruling Independent Alliance of Social Democrats party, said the government opposed such memorials because their sole purpose was "to represent the Serbs and the Serb people as genocidal." "Don't live in the illusion that marking memorials would either hamper or contribute to the reconciliation process, or improve understanding in the country. It would only be of use to Bosniaks (Bosnian Muslims)," he said.

Given such resistance, some believe that a law on memorials is becoming necessary.

Kemal Pervanic was 24 when his village was attacked and he and his brother were taken to Omarska, an experience he recounts in his 1999 book "The Killing Days." Pervanic now lives in England, and studied memorials in Prijedor for his dissertation.

For him, having the White House preserved as a memorial is a way not only to educate others, but also an important part of coming to terms with what happened to him there.

"Speaking as a survivor, I feel that if I have a need to go back, I should be given access to that place," he said. "And if there's a memorial, then I can go back and deal with my past." Omarska, he said, should serve as a warning of what not to do to other human beings—for Serbs and non-Serbs alike.

"Those crimes were perpetrated against me, I was nearly killed there," he said. "The cycle of violence should actually stop with me." Mujagic, a fellow survivor, agreed, saying that Omarska should serve "as a warning of madness which should never happen to anyone."

"In a sense commemorating the past will clear our future," Mujagic said. "It will clear the way to live together normally."

*Rachael Irwin is a reporter in The Hague and Velma Saric is a reporter in Bosnia. They write for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the authors at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: [www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net). For information about IWPR's funding, please go to <http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?top=supporters.html>.*



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# Afghan women face abuse for fleeing forced marriages

By **BAHMAN BOMAN**  
THE INSTITUTE FOR WAR&PEACE REPORTING

**M**AZAR-E-SHARIF, Afghanistan—Zaiba, 18, didn’t need to see the cover of *Time* magazine to know what happens to women who flee an arranged marriage or an abusive husband.

While the world may have been shocked by the image of a 20-year-old woman simply known as Aisha who had her nose and ears cut off by her father-in-law after fleeing her violent Taliban husband, Zaiba understood the risk she faced when she ran away from home to escape an arranged marriage in order to wed the man she loved.

“My father wanted to marry me off to my uncle’s son, who is 40 and already has a wife and kids. Actually, he wanted to sell me” for \$15,000, she said. “My boyfriend and I decided to run away and solve the problem through the judicial institutions.”

Zaiba found sanctuary in a refuge for women in the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif, where she has been staying for the last two months.

Her father, Nuruddin, 80, was invited to the safe house to see whether he and his daughter could come to some agreement. He staunchly denies blocking Zaiba’s wish to marry her boyfriend.

“If this guy had come along with four elders and asked for my daughter’s hand in marriage, why wouldn’t I have let her marry him?” he said. But, he added, “Now he has sullied my name, so there is no way I will let my daughter marry him.”

Hamid Safawat heads the Afghanistan Assistance group that helps run the shelter in Mazar-e Sharif. There are currently 31

women and girls in the shelter. Safawat said that since it opened in 2006, the shelter has provided refuge for more than 1,400 runaways in the northern provinces of Baghlan, Samangan, Balkh, Jowzjan, Sar-i Pol and Faryab.

In conservative Afghan society, many decisions about a woman’s future are taken by male family members. Observers say customary law takes precedence over Islamic law, which gives women the right to choose their own husband and forbids forced marriage.

Qazi Sayed Mohammad Samay, who heads the northern branch of Afghanistan’s Human Rights Commission, said the number of girls running away from home has risen in recent years. Samia, 16, from the Shulgard district of Balkh province, is among those seeking the commission’s help. She wants it to intervene and help break her engagement to a 38-year-old. Her family actually arranged the marriage when she was 6 and is now insisting the nuptials take place.

“I don’t want to marry someone who’s many times my age, so I have come to this (human rights commission) office to get the engagement terminated,” she said.

Under Afghan law, women and girls who run away from home can be put in prison for up to a year. Due to the shame associated with such cases, families sometimes disown the women.

Fawzia Nawabi, head of the women’s department at the national Human Rights Commission, said that on a recent tour of women’s prisons, she met 15 girls imprisoned for running away from home in Balkh province, 22 in Jowzjan, eight in Sar-i Pol province and four in Samangan.

“All of them said they had been married off against their will,” she said. “Some of them had run away because they were beaten for

no reason, and others because they had been given away as ‘baad.’” “Baad” is an Afghan custom where girls are given in marriage in exchange for debts owed to the other family, or as compensation for a death.

Samay with the regional Human Rights Commission agreed “baad” was one of the factors driving women to flee their homes, along with poverty and low levels of literacy.

But he also claimed that foreign media was giving girls unrealistic expectations and reducing the influence of the family. He called for an end to such “intrusions of foreign culture.”

Malalay Roshandil Osmani, head of the Balkh Association for the Defense of Women’s Rights, disagreed. She agreed that young women were increasingly influenced by foreign media since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, but said such consciousness only made them more aware of their rights and potential.

“Awareness of their rights has fostered a new spirit of daring among women, leading them to run away from home,” she said.

There are signs that things may be slowly changing in Afghanistan. Recently, the man accused of cutting off Aisha’s nose and ears was arrested and is currently in prison.

*Bahman Boman is a reporter in Afghanistan who writes for The Institute for War & Peace Reporting, a nonprofit organization that trains journalists in areas of conflict. Readers may write to the author at the Institute for War & Peace Reporting, 48 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8LT, U.K.; Web site: [www.iwpr.net](http://www.iwpr.net). For information about IWPR’s funding, please go to <http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?top—supporters.html>.*

## Letters to the Editor

# I dared to dream!

The letter “A stranger in a strange land” was a true example of how ignorant and lost some citizens are when it comes to governance and the governed, and to think he once taught our children. Last time I heard, the CNMI was America and I’m an African-American, local people are Chamorro & Carolinian-Americans so who is he talking about? He must be the stranger. But I do want to thank him for helping inspire this letter. I have written many letters over the years and recently about “unity” in government and among the people. Well, it seems the message finally got through to our governor and the GOP, although I will never get the credit for contributing to the recent revelation of the GOP and the Covenant uniting. But kudos to the governor for taking the right step to reunite the party and the people, as I’m sure he realizes the power of being one party and one people. I just wish it would have happened *before* the delegate race because the immediate future of the CNMI would be looking a lot different and a lot better. But uniting the Covenant with the GOP is about the *best* power play left that we could run in this game to counterbalance the poor political decision by voters. Just think if we had sent Mr. Babauta and the GOP and Covenant were united, it would be a dream come true for the CNMI and we might have even seen some *great* accomplishments.

I dared to dream and it is now a fact that the GOP is now in charge of the House in Washington, which is where all funding bills originate. For the first time in the CNMI’s history, real political power with hundreds of votes in Congress was laid at our doorstep but voters chose to thumb their noses at all this power. I predicted the CNMI would face an uphill battle and even impossible battle in Washington to get anything accomplished if we didn’t send the right delegate and now the GOP is in charge and Kilili himself has authenticated my prediction about his challenges when he told us on KSPN News that things don’t look promising in so many words—and that was just for openers. I don’t have anything against Kilili and it’s not personal. I just happened to be one of a declining few who truly dream of a better CNMI with the majority of people en-

# A global problem

I was watching John King on CNN reporting the cash shortages ranging from 10 percent to over 50 percent of city budgets across the United States. Well, we are no different from what the U.S. mainland is experiencing. The main question is, what can we do to improve the existing situation?

Economist will say that an infusion of capital into the economy will be the answer. That is exactly the purpose of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. We are now experiencing some of the benefit of this Act but this will be exhausted within two to three years. What we need is to look at our major infrastructure and invest our present and future resource on those that will po-

joying prosperity. Hope is renewed with the unification of the two parties but I just can’t stop thinking about what could have been and I must share it:

I dared to dream that voters would pick the best candidate based on qualifications and the merits of the delegate race. I dared to dream voters would be smart enough to play the political game in Washington like other states did by sending new GOP members to Congress. I dared to dream voters would remember Mr. Babauta’s 12 great years of service in Washington. Obviously, we all missed out on a great opportunity for sending who was truly the best politician to deal with a GOP-controlled Congress.

But there is more. I dared to dream that the CNMI would finally have real votes for the *first time* in Congress with the GOP’s support. I dared to dream that these bad times would make the people unite based on the facts, as opposed to falling for the *popularity contest* of the Public School System because it’s our economy that needs the help, not education officials. Voters fell for the oldest trick in the book—a politician who swears on education when we are literally facing economic doom! But I dared to dream of a CNMI getting the necessary economic recovery funding with the GOP’s help in Congress, like the \$500 million that other insular areas already got! I dared to dream of the jungle lot next to American Memorial Park being developed into a convention center that would also house the cultural museums of all the Micronesian cultures and our tourist neighbors of Japan, Korea and China. A convention center that has already been planned and blueprinted with \$200,000 of local funds and now it may never see the light of day. What a missed opportunity and waste of our money.

I dared to dream of the economic treaty with Japan, Korea and China that Mr. Babauta was going to promote, directly aligned with the economic treaties that the GOP has been trying to get done for the past two years—treaties that will now become a reality but the CNMI won’t be part of that legislation without the support of the national GOP.

Dr. King taught us to dream and to dream big. Today teachers

tentially provide better future returns.

We should target projects that will enable the private sector to thrive. Remember, the private sector makes the money. The government spends the money. It is very important, especially at this point in time, that the government facilitate the development of infrastructures that will have the best return. We are seeing activities now but we really need to do more.

The recently formed Alternative Energy Committee is one project in the right direction. We have to understand that 46 out of 50 states are experiencing the same crises as we are experiencing right now. Los Angeles City is thinking of laying off 1,000 teachers as

inspire students to dream and shoot for the moon and stars. So were voters really dreaming and shooting for the maximum effort for the CNMI in Congress when they voted? No! Some voters were just out to please themselves and not help the CNMI. Sad but true. They didn’t vote to get us out of this economic mess and we wonder why we are suffering. We keep voting ourselves into a deeper and deeper hole. We are facing the hardest times since the conception of the Commonwealth and it can only be fixed immediately with help and support of the GOP in the U.S. Congress.

There is a reason voters in the mainland are called the *impolite democracy* because they don’t fall for popularity contests like many of our recent elections have been. You don’t have to like the person you hire or vote for as long as they can do the job! Voters on the mainland played the game of politics in Washington by sending the right players to Congress. This is why we see the control of U. S. Congress go back and forth between the two parties with over 600 seats at play yet no party can maintain a majority over time.

The CNMI must get on top of its political game locally and in Washington or we will continue to suffer and be powerless in Congress. There are no more stimulus and ARRA funding so we can’t expect much. The sad part is voters had to know from Mr. Steele’s historic visit and the mainland polls that the GOP was going to rule in Congress but voters failed to realize the magnitude of sending a GOP member and failed to *carpe diem* again! Readers can almost be assured that at the end of this term in Congress, I will be saying I told you so again!

One of the main reason people are leaving the CNMI is to fulfill their American dream that seems hopeless in the CNMI and most of them are not coming back. But I will share this bit of wisdom: *Learn to dream, people, and then you can work to make your dreams become a reality but if you never dream there will only be one reality – the one you are stuck in.*

**Ambrose M. Bennett**  
*Kagman, Saipan*

one of their potential action. Other cities have other options, including four-day workweek that we are now practicing.

So, people, we are not the only ones who have this problem of cash shortages. Really, we have to understand from a global perspective. It is now that we need to work for each other and not against each other. United is obviously the better position. Divided will not get us anywhere. Happy holidays and God bless us all.






**Frank M. Atalig**  
*Sinapalo, Rota*



Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲83 ▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼75
Kosrae	Showers	▲87 ▼75
Majuro	Showers	▲82 ▼74

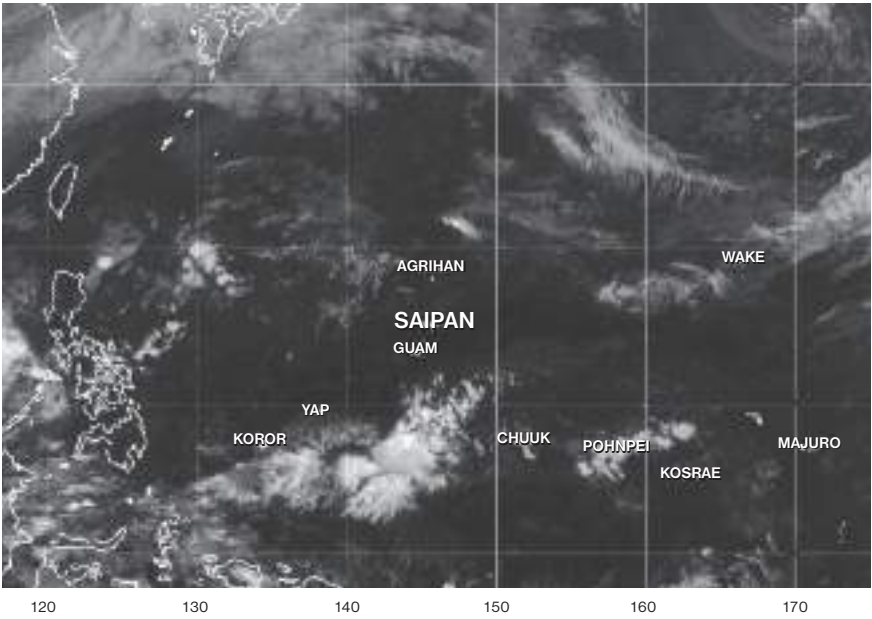
### Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲72 ▼63
Beijing	Sunny	▲28 ▼8
Hong Kong	Showers	▲67 ▼40
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81 ▼71
London	Ice	▲39 ▼33
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲65 ▼48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲87 ▼76
Melbourne	Showers	▲81 ▼64
Miami	Sunny	▲58 ▼37
New York	Cloudy	▲27 ▼21
Osaka	Showers	▲46 ▼39
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲33 ▼24
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲40 ▼26
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲46 ▼32
Salem	Rain	▲47 ▼40
San Francisco	Showers	▲61 ▼48
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲25 ▼16
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲54 ▼42
Washington, DC	Windy	▲32 ▼22

### Tides

Saipan Harbor				
1:01 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.3 Feet	
7:14 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	
2:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
9:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet	

### Yesterday's Satellite Image



### PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front curves southwestward from near Midway Island through 23N180 to 21N175E then continues westward as a shear line to end at 22N146E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the cold front. Cloudiness and scattered showers are present along and up to 200 miles north of the shear line. A surface trough extends northeastward from EQ138E to 12N149E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring within an area bounded by a line from 7N142E to 5N130E to EQ130E to 3N133E to 3N143E to 12N150E to 10N144E back to 7N142E. This area is located south of Koror, Yap and Guam but lies west of Chuuk. Another surface trough reaches northeastward from 6N156E across Pohnpei to end at 9N163E. Scattered showers are found within 70 miles of the trough axis.

### Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	5:49 PM
Wednesday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:36 AM	5:50 PM

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	12:25 PM	12:10 AM
Wednesday	1:01 PM	12:56 AM
Thursday	1:39 PM	1:44 AM
Friday	2:19 PM	2:33 AM
Saturday	3:04 PM	3:25 AM

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**SUBSCRIPTION** Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2010

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM				GUAM-SAIPAN			
C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily	C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6	C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7	C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily	C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily	C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	Daily	DL286	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily	DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5	OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	4, 7
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1	OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ603	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7	OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6	FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ704/605	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09317/891	2:45am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM	DL172/286	7:55am	8:25pm	Daily via NRT
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	Daily via NRT	C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
C09313/933	7:55am	9:40pm	6 via GUM	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau	OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau	C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/C0596	10:00pm	7:25am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 5, 7 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
				C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG				HONG KONG-SAIPAN			
OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00am	1 via ICN	OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN				via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ606/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
				C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

## FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
FRE 300	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.com](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.com)



# Special Feature

## Power 99 celebrates 18 years of airing great music

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

At a time when many establishments on Saipan are either downsizing or closing down, Power 99 FM forges ahead with yet another milestone, celebrating 18 years of providing diverse quality musical entertainment in the CNMI.

Broadcasting a Top 40 format, Power 99 is owned by Sorensen Media Group, which manages a whole gamut of communications media in the CNMI and Guam.

Tina B. Palacios, SMG branch manager for Saipan, said many things are in store for their listeners in celebration of their 18th anniversary in the business.

"From Dec. 14 to 31, we are going to do various onsite and on-air promotions, giving away lots of prizes like movie passes, cash prizes, groceries, cell phones. It's going to be a lot," Palacios told *Saipan Tribune*.

She said they will give away free raffle tickets for a chance to win sizeable cash prizes and other goodies such as lunch and dinner certificates.

"It's the holiday season and it's our birthday but instead of us getting the presents, it will be us giving the presents. ... It's our way to say thank you to our listeners. If not for them, the company will not be around," she said.

According to Palacios, these awesome prizes and giveaways are just a prelude to something bigger for the station's avid listeners. She said Power 99's biggest bash will take place when the clock strikes midnight on Jan. 1, 2011.

"The actual party for Power 99 is on New Year's Day, when we move to our new location at the Garapan Square in Paseo de Marianas. That's also going to be our grand opening for the new location. New location, a whole new start of the decade. We're very excited," she revealed.

### Strategic move

Arguably the CNMI's best radio station, Power 99 was initially housed at the Cabrera Center on Beach Road for almost 13 years.

It currently serves its audience from its current location on the third floor of the GRC Building, which also houses the Division of Environmental Quality on Middle Road.

"If we were a typical office, this [current location] is perfect. I've always said that if ever we're going to move, we would move to Garapan. We're entertainment. We're radio! People hear us but now they need to see us," said Palacios.

Palacios said that since everybody goes to Garapan—for all intent and purposes the heart of Saipan—it is perfect for Saipan's premier radio station.

"This location is awesome. As what DJ Dice said, I am going to put them in the middle of their playground. We got stores, the restaurants, the hotels, the bars. We're here and everything



CLARISSA DAVID  
Tina B. Palacios, Sorensen Media Group branch manager for Saipan.

is around us," she explained.

Aside from its strategic site, Palacios said it was also a clever business decision on their part if one is to consider the good deal they got for the long-term lease of the new location. "In a sense, we're investing because we're going to be there for a long time," she said.

### Awesome workplace

Palacios, who started with the company's Guam office as a

sales and promotions point person, said it was her first time to actually run a radio station branch.

"I never really pictured myself to be running the largest media group in Micronesia," she confessed.

But when company owner Rex Sorensen offered her the job on Saipan, she jumped at the chance of moving back to the island where she was born. She arrived in 2004, resolved to stay for just a year. Six years later, she's still here, running SMG's two radio stations plus TV station ABC 7.

"I love my job. It's such an awesome place to work. I work with the best. I love the people I work with," she said.

According to Palacios, all her coworkers—not staff—are such amazing people that working at Power 99 has been easy for everyone.

At present, the station has seven full-time and three part-time disc jockeys and office assistants.

"Everybody has duties and responsibilities. Each job is as important as the others. I work with the most awesome people," she said.

Palacios makes sure their talented DJs, who are all vital to the station's success, become mindful of the kind of influence and responsibility they have once they crank up the microphone and go on air.

"These guys are like superstars. I tell them they are personalities. They make a difference on children, their peers. I always remind them to be careful

not only with what they say and how they say it on the mic but also when they go out there," she said.

### 18 years

After being in business for 18 years, Power 99 has already established its own personality.

"Power 99 plays a diverse range of music: hip hop, reggae, Chamorro. And we're the only radio station in the CNMI with 24-hour on-air person," she said.

Palacios said the station has seen an increase in its number of advertisers, majority of which are federally funded programs of the local government.

But what makes Power 99 thrive on Saipan where it competes with about five other radio stations and at a difficult time at that?

"To survive in an economy on an island population that small, you really have to be aggressive and strong in marketing your product. You cannot just expect people to like you just because you play the music. You've got to do things for the listeners. They listen because they like the music and there's something for them to make it worth their while," Palacios said.

With 18 solid years of playing great music for the CNMI, Power 99 envisions more for its listeners in the years to come.

"I see Power 99 another 18 years strong. I can truly say that it is the No. 1 station on the island. And as long as we continue to do the things that we do, we will continue to be No. 1," said Palacios.

## RADIO TALENTS OF POWER 99

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Yes, there is more to the disc jockeys of Power 99 than just their voices. But what exactly makes a good DJ? Is it someone that knows how to spin great music for the listeners? Does it require a good speaking voice? Whatever the case might be, let's meet the three highly capable DJs of Power 99.

### DJ BONEZ

**Real name:** Vaughn Hofschneider

**Time slot:** Tandem with DJ Flip from Monday to Friday, 6am to 12 noon; hosts the Subway Reggae Lite Lunch

**Power 99 career:** Began toward the last part of the third quarter of 1999 doing the dreaded night shift. Worked his way up to being in charge of production orders.

**Interesting trivia:** Also worked for sister station, The Kat. And oh, his favorite commercial production is the Kung Flu Fighter campaign of the Department of Public Health.

**Idol celebrities:** I've grown up listening to homegrown roots like Jojo Camacho, Joe Naputi, Howard Stern, Carlos Mencia

**What's interesting about being a DJ:** It's a trip how people hear his voice all the time and not know his face.

**Greatest fear about being a DJ:** Before, I used to think peo-

ple will come knocking down on my door because they've grown tired of me.

**Secret to his lengthy career:** I put my real personality inside the studio. You need to have patience and people skills. Also, 'I'm a lover, not a fighter' to hecklers.

**Power 99 message:** It's been an awesome ride. Keep it rockin' and keep the No. 1 flag flying proudly!

### DJ TAYO

**Time slot:** Double act with DJ Dice from Monday to Friday, 12 noon to 6pm

**Power 99 career:** Worked as part-time DJ in 2004, left the following year, then got on board as a full-timer in the first quarter of 2010.

**How he was discovered:** By DJ Bonez, who heard him deliver his funny, sincere, touching, and crowd-friendly closing remarks for Saipan Southern High's graduating class of 2004.

**Interesting trivia:** Tayo actually served in the military for over four years. He wrote and recorded songs while in Iraq and finally decided that playing music was a lot easier than going to war.

**Favorite music:** Likes songs that inspire people. Loves reggae meshed with hip hop. A huge fan of Bob Marley's children Ziggy and Damian.

**Best part of being a DJ:** Knowing that what you're doing can actually be very uplifting for others and being able to put smiles on people's faces.

**Downside:** It's hard to talk to everybody and nobody at the same time. Also, you have to play the role of a DJ playing songs regardless of "s\*\*\*\*y days."

**Power 99 message:** Happy 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and many more to come! I'm very happy that things happened the way they did. Radio found me, and it's been great!

### DJ DICE

**Time slot:** 'Partner in crime' with DJ Tayo

**How she was discovered:** She was playing with the intercom at her former workplace, Ace Hardware in Gualo Rai

**Interesting trivia:** Her family line grows longer every time she has

movie passes to give away. Her oldest listener and winner was Kathryn Barry's mother. She wants to become an MTV VJ.

**Most rewarding part:** Knowing that aside from playing music, in case of an emergency, we stay and continue to bring safety and wellness for our island and listeners out there. We make them laugh even with the economic crunch.

**Trickiest part:** It's tough watching what you say in the radio especially when you have a potty mouth like me. The words \*ss and b\*\*\*\*h got her in trouble.

**Celebrity you look up to:** KC Kasem. He can reach out to any age level.

**Unforgettable DJ experience:** Meeting Kapana as a DJ at Power 98 in Guam. I choked. My parents are humongous fans as well.

**Power 99 message:** It's a great feeling still being a part of Power 99 after all these years. Radio found me, and we make a good pair. We have teamwork and every day, we make sure that we provide our listeners with entertainment.



Dice



Tayo



Bonez

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY  
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID  
ITB11-DEQ-030**

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JANUARY 03, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

**"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) X-RAY FLOURESCENT  
FIELD SCREENING INSTRUMENT WITH  
ACCOMPANYING ACCESSORIES FOR THE  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT, AS SUCH, **LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE**, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN  
DIRECTOR OF DEQ
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
DIRECTOR, P&S

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
P.O. BOX 501370  
SAIPAN, MP 96950**

**Head Start Policy Council  
AGENDA**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a meeting on December 16, 2010 (Thursday) from 5:30pm-7:30pm, Chalan Kanoa Head Start Center Resource Room, Saipan.

<b>I. Preliminary Matters</b> 1. Call to Order 2. Roll Call 3. Quorum 4. Adoption of Agenda <b>II. Public Comments</b> 1. From the State Board of Education 2. From the Office of Head Start <b>III. Communications</b> 1. Director 2. Managers 3. Finance <b>IV. Monthly Reports</b> 1. Director 2. Managers 3. Finance <b>V. Old Business</b> 1. Update on Family & Community Partnership Position <b>VI. New Business</b> 1. Action Item: a. Approval of the SY 2010-2011 Self Assessment Timeline 2. Head Start Act 648A "Action Plan on 2013 Mandate" 3. Risk Management Conference Call <b>VII. Executive Session</b> <b>VIII. Next Meeting</b> <b>IX. Adjournment</b>	5. Adoption of Minutes: a. November 17, 2010 Regular Meeting b. November 26, 2010 Special Meeting 4. Council Standing Committees a. Personnel b. Education c. Executive d. Finance e. Public Relations
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Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session. Public Comments are limited to 15 minutes; therefore comments are limited to 3 minutes each.

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Candace Q. Celis at 664-3761; several days notice is required.

/s/ Mr. Anthony Barcinas  
Chairperson



# Business

## SHRM tackles health care reform

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter's annual conference will have the theme is "Health Care Reform: How it Affects You and the CNMI."

The conference is bringing together a dynamic and diverse group of health care and health insurance leaders, government officials, and industry experts to discuss how the landscape of health care and health insurance has changed for the U.S. and the CNMI as a result of the recent passing of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The purpose of the conference is to address the benefits, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles that the CNMI is facing with implementation of this landmark Health Care Reform

law. The focus will be on how the new law is positively and negatively affecting regional health insurance companies, health care providers, public health, Medicare and Medicaid, and the residents of the CNMI.

The conference will be held at the Saipan World Resort Royal Taga Ballroom on Dec. 21, from 8am to 4pm.

The conference includes handouts, refreshments, and lunch and the cost is \$40 for SHRM members and \$60 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Polly DLG Masga at 237-5122 or e-mail her at pollydlg@gmail.com.

The conference will provide attendees the valuable opportunity to:

- Find out about the major

changes that health care reform is bringing to the CNMI and how it will affect you;

- Find out if health insurance is required and if there are any fines or penalties for not having it;

- Learn why all the regional insurance companies may discontinue offering health insurance by 2014;

- Find out how Public Health, CHC and Medical Referral are being affected by Health Care Reform;

- Learn about the Insurance Commissioner's oversight responsibilities for the insurance industry;

- Find out about Medicare and Medicaid changes;

- Learn about the challenges and opportunities that CNMI health care providers are facing;

- Ask questions and get answers

from each of the presenters.

Speakers will include U. S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan; Katherine Dote, SHRM State Director for the Pacific Council and Director of Human Resources for the Guam Marriott Resort & Spa; Joseph Kevin Villagomez, Secretary of Public Health; Frank

Campillo, Health Plan Administrator for Calvo's SelectCare Health Plans; Donald B. Davis, President & CEO for StayWell Health Insurance; Francis E. Santos, Associate Administrator for StayWell Health Insurance; Gina Ramos, Chief of Staff for TakeCare Insurance Company; Jerry Crisostomo, Plan Administrator for Moylan's NetCare Life & Health Insurance; Sixto Igisomar, Acting Secretary of Commerce and CNMI Insur-

ance Commissioner; Augustus Loste, Acting District Manager for the U. S. Social Security and Medicare Office in the CNMI; Helen Sablan, Administrator for the CNMI Medicaid Program; Dr. Norma Ada, President of Medical Associates of the Pacific; Thelma Cabrera, Operations Manager for Marianas Medical Center; George Cruz, President of Marianas Health Services; and Natalie Codianne, Pharmacist for PHI Pharmacy. (PR)

## Why aren't you an SHRM member?

**Question: I attend most of the SHRM monthly meetings, but I'm not a member. Should I be?**

Of course you should be. Why aren't you?

For those readers who are not in the Human Resource field, or are newly joined, SHRM stands for the Society for Human Resource Management, the world's largest professional organization for those in the Human Resource field. The meetings referred to in the question are the monthly meetings of the CNMI chapter of SHRM that provide information and training on issues and skills that are important to people involved in managing Human Resources.

Before I go on, let me repeat something I wrote in my first article. I don't feel that people in the HR office are human resource managers. In my view, that title and responsibilities go to those of you out there who directly manage and supervise people. The folks in the HR office provide expertise, training, and assistance to help you do your jobs better. That's why having the HR knowledge and skills that are necessary in today's complicated HR environment is vital to not just HR professionals, but also to line managers and to business owners, especially those small businesses without HR staff.

Why should you be a member? I'm going to give you several reasons, but the most important one is that being a member of SHRM helps you obtain the HR management-related information that you need in order to do your job effectively, take care of your employees and their needs and keep your company out of trouble and out of court.

Before the CNMI had a SHRM chapter, there was no training available for those in the HR business. There was no peer association for managers and HR professionals to discuss their problems and see if there were common solutions. In fact, HR as a profession had only a few knowledgeable practitioners at the time.

So, in the Spring of 1997, a small group of HR professionals in the community began meeting and in October of that year started up the CNMI SHRM

### HR MATTERS

By FRANK GIBSON

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Frank L. Gibson, SPHR, GPHR, owner of HR Support, CNMI, a Saipan-based training and consulting firm, has been a resident of the CNMI for almost 15 years. One of the founding members of the CNMI Chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management, he has worked both as a line-manager of human resources and in the Human Resource Office.



Chapter. The purposes of the CNMI Chapter were stated in its by-laws and constitution:

- To promote fellowship and an opportunity for cooperative relationship between members and a better understanding of the mutual problems affecting those engaged in HR work in industry, business and public service;

- To facilitate the continuing education and operating effectiveness of HR professionals; and

- To promote and gain recognition of the high ethical standards and professionalism in the HR function.

The chapter has monthly meetings, mostly lunch meetings, but also half-day or full-day seminars. This year we have brought in Congressman Sablan, the district head of U.S. Customs and Immigration, the area head of the U.S. Department of Labor, the federal office in charge of approving prevailing wages, the EEOC District Attorney, the U.S. Government Accountability Office, Attorneys Marcia Schultz and Vince Seman, and others who have provided information on current issues important to the business and HR community as well as information we all need to provide HR services to our employees and companies.

On Dec. 21, 7:30am to 3:30pm, the chapter is hosting a full day conference on "Health Care Reform and How it Will Affect the CNMI" at the Saipan World Resort. You should be there, as it will affect all of us—and you HR folks and managers will have to deal with it.

It's money-smart being a member. In small change—the savings in the lower member cost for attendance pays for the membership fee. In big bucks—what you learn will save you much more in time and money

by preventing labor and EEO issues and the penalties, settlements, judgments and legal fees. Anyone who has had to deal with an EEO or U.S. Labor case should start nodding their heads about now.

Also—and for some, most important—you have access to all of the information and assistance that is available through the National SHRM organization: a monthly HR magazine and several specialized quarterly newsletters on HR matters, legal issues, diversity and others. You receive weekly emails that keep you up-to-date on immediate HR issues. You have access to sample job descriptions, policies and procedures, manuals, tool kits—you can e-mail or call-in questions and they will research them for you—and you get discounts on HR books, videos and other items. Go to <http://www.shrm.org/about/membership/> and take a look.

So—back to the question. If you work with people, either in management or the HR office and you are not a member of SHRM—you should be. For more information or an application, you can contact me or Polly DLG Masga, Membership Chair, at pollydlg@gmail.com or 237-5122. If you join before December 2, you get a raffle-chance for 50,000 air miles to the destination of your choice.

Oh, yes—tell Polly that Frank sent you.

*The information contained in this column is intended as general information only. Readers should obtain professional advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding human resource issues to [hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com](mailto:hrrsupportcnmi@gmail.com) or [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com).*

## Payroll tax cut worries Social Security advocates

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama's plan to cut payroll taxes for a year would provide big savings for many workers, but makes Social Security advocates nervous that it could jeopardize the retirement program's finances.

The plan is part of a package of tax cuts and extended unemployment benefits that Obama negotiated with Senate Republican leaders. It would cut workers' share of Social Security taxes by nearly one-third for 2011. Workers making \$50,000 in wages would get a \$1,000 tax cut; those making \$100,000 would get a \$2,000 tax cut.

The government would borrow about \$112 billion to make Social Security whole. Advocates and some lawmakers worry that relying on borrowed money to fund Social Security could eventually force it to compete with other federal programs for scarce dollars, leading to cuts.

Social Security taxes "ought to be held sacrosanct," said Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., chairman of the House Ways and Means subcommittee on Social Security.

"When you start to signal that the (Social Security) tax levels are negotiable, you end up in long-term trouble, I think, in terms of making absolutely certain that the entitlement funding streams are secure," Pomeroy said.

Social Security is funded by a 6.2 percent payroll tax on the first \$106,800 earned by a worker. The tax is matched by employers. The package negotiated by Obama would reduce the tax paid by workers to 4.2 percent for 2011. Employer rates would stay unchanged.

Obama administration officials say that a payroll tax cut is an efficient way to stimulate the economy by immediately increasing take home pay for about 155 million workers.



This Feb. 15, 2010 file photo shows House Social Security subcommittee Chairman Rep. Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., in Sarajevo.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office agrees, and many business groups and Republicans support it.

"What came out of the compromise was the idea of the payroll tax holiday, which, frankly, a huge number of economists and other experts had been talking about over the last two years with a lot of support in both political parties," said Larry Summers, Obama's chief economic adviser.

The United Auto Workers endorsed the deal, saying, "Working families will likely spend this money in their local communities, creating jobs and stimulating overall growth."

The payroll tax cut is part of a larger package negotiated by Obama and GOP lawmakers to extend a sweeping array of Bush era tax cuts that expire at the end of the month. Some Democratic lawmakers have balked at the plan, saying it is tilted too much in favor of the rich.

The payroll tax cut would provide relief to any worker earning a wage. It would replace Obama's Making Work Pay tax credit, which has provided modest increases in most workers' paychecks for the past two years.

The payroll tax credit would

be more generous to individuals making more than \$20,000 and married couples making more than \$40,000. For those making less, the payroll tax cut would be less than the Making Work Pay credit.

Making Work Pay, which expires at the end of the year, gives workers a tax credit of 6.2 percent of their wages, but it is capped at \$400 for individuals and \$800 for couples. The credit is phased out for individuals making more than \$75,000 and couples making more than \$150,000.

A worker would have to make \$20,000 in wages for the payroll tax cut to equal the \$400 Making Work Pay tax credit; couples would have to make \$40,000.

At the wealthy end of the pay scale, workers making \$106,800—the maximum amount of wages subject to Social Security taxes—would see their payroll taxes reduced by \$2,136. That worker's spouse could also get a payroll tax cut of up to \$2,136, if he or she makes at least \$106,800.

The proposal requires the Treasury Department to replenish Social Security with other government funds, which would have to be borrowed.



# Nation

## Storm socks Midwest, cancels flights, closes roads

**CHICAGO** (AP)—A powerful, gusty storm dumped mounds of snow across the upper Midwest on Sunday, closing major highways in several states, canceling more than 1,600 flights in Chicago and collapsing the roof of the Minnesota Vikings' stadium.

At least four weather-related deaths were reported as the storm system dropped nearly 2 feet of snow in parts of Minnesota and marched east. A blizzard warning was in effect Sunday for parts of eastern

Iowa, southeastern Wisconsin, northwestern Illinois and northern Michigan, according to the National Weather Service. Surrounding areas, including Chicago, were under winter storm warnings. Much of Iowa was under a wind-chill advisory.

In Minneapolis, the heavy snow left the Metrodome decidedly unready for some football. Video inside the stadium aired by Fox Sports showed the inflatable Teflon roof sagging before it tore open, dumping massive amounts of snow across one end

of the playing field.

No one was hurt but the Vikings' game against the New York Giants had to be moved to Detroit's Ford Field. The day of the game had already been pushed back from Sunday to Monday because the storm kept the Giants from reaching Minneapolis on time. Stadium officials were trying to repair the roof in time for the Vikings' next home game, Dec. 20 against Chicago.

The wintry weather, with blowing snow that severely lim-

ited visibility, wreaked havoc on air and road travel. In the Chicago area, wind gusts of up to 50 mph, temperatures in the teens and wind chills well below zero were expected, along with up to 8 inches of snow.

At least 1,375 flights were canceled at O'Hare International Airport and more than 300 were canceled at Midway International Airport, Chicago Department of Aviation spokeswoman Karen Pride said. Both

airports expected more cancellations and reported significant delays.

Officials at O'Hare set up about 200 cots and will provide amenity kits containing toothpaste and toothbrushes in case travelers get stranded at the airport, Pride said.

Major highways in several states were closed due to poor driving conditions and accidents.

In Indianapolis, police said a man fatally stabbed his wife,

then died four blocks from his home Sunday morning when his vehicle hit a tree after he lost control on a slippery road. Police did not immediately release the names of the couple.

Illinois State Police closed a section of Interstate 80 in the north central part of the state after a multiple-car pileup west of Peru and part of Interstate 55 near Springfield after accidents and reports of zero visibility. No deaths were reported.

## Even Dem foes of tax cut plan see it passing soon

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The White House expressed confidence Sunday that President Barack Obama's deal with Republicans will pass by year's end, averting a Jan. 1 increase in income taxes for nearly all Americans, even the highest earners. In a sign of fading resistance, a Democratic leader said the lame-duck House will try to make changes, but won't block the bill.

Ahead of a test vote in the Senate on Monday, Obama adviser David Axelrod predicted the president's compromise deal would win out despite a tougher sell in the House. Majority Democrats, who lose control of the House to Republicans in January, voted last week not to allow it to reach the floor without changes to scale back relief for wealthy estates.

The package also would renew a program of jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed that is due to lapse within days and put in place a one-year cut in Social Security taxes.

"We believe that when it comes back to the House, that we will get a vote, and that we'll prevail there, because at the end of the day, no one wants to see

taxes go up on 150 million Americans" on New Year's Day, Axelrod said. "No one wants to see 2 million people lose their unemployment insurance, and everybody understands what it would mean for the economy if we don't get this done."

Axelrod said he didn't foresee "major changes" in the House to the compromise.

Maryland Rep. Chris Van Hollen, a member of the Democratic leadership who represented the House in negotiations with the administration, made clear that Democrats strongly object to extending breaks to estates as large as \$5 million. He said the package will be taken up in the House in some form, but there would be an effort to change the estate tax provision.

"We're not talking about blocking the whole thing," Van Hollen said, when asked if Democrats would essentially take a hard-line position on their views.

"The president made a deal with the Senate Republicans ... and to the credit of the Republicans, they did not say this better deal on the estate tax was essential," he said. "We're not going to hold this thing up at the end

of the day, but we do think that simple question should be put to test. We're going to ask the Republicans and others, are they going to block this entire deal" to protect wealthy estates?

At the insistence of Republicans, the plan includes a more generous estate tax provision: The first \$5 million of a couple's estate could pass to heirs without taxation, and an additional \$5 million for the spouse. The balance would be subject to a 35 percent tax rate.

That provision infuriated Democrats who are already unhappy with Obama for agreeing to extend tax cuts at incomes of more than \$200,000 for individuals and \$250,000 for couples, and who say the tax breaks will unnecessarily add to the rising federal deficit. In all, the package would cost about \$855 billion, according to a preliminary congressional estimate.

The No. 2 Senate Democrat, Dick Durbin of Illinois, said there was a "good cross-section" of fellow Democratic senators who are ready to accept the deal. He said House Democrats should go along because they won't be in as strong a position to fight for a better deal in 2011.



Holes in the collapsed Metrodome roof can be seen in Minneapolis Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010. The inflatable roof of the Metrodome collapsed Sunday after a snowstorm that dumped 17 inches on Minneapolis. No one was hurt, but the roof failure sent the NFL scrambling to find a new venue for the Vikings' game against the New York Giants.

## Holbrooke critical after surgery for torn aorta

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Veteran diplomat Richard Holbrooke, a special U.S. envoy on the Afghanistan war, remained in critical condition Sunday after surgery to fix a tear in the large artery that moves blood from the heart.

President Barack Obama said in a statement that he and first lady Michelle Obama were praying for Holbrooke's recovery. He called Holbrooke "a towering figure in American foreign policy" who has been a critical player in developing the administration's policy on Afghanistan.

The 69-year-old Holbrooke underwent an additional procedure Sunday to improve circulation. The State Department said he received calls from Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari.

Holbrooke was meeting with Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton about midmorning Friday at the State Department when he collapsed.

"Many people would have succumbed to that. Richard is fighting through. Anyone who knows him, and I was with him Friday morning before this happened, knows how tough and resilient he

is and we're all praying that that quality sees him through now," Obama adviser David Axelrod told CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday.

Doctors at George Washington University Hospital worked more than 20 hours through the day Friday and overnight to repair the tear in Holbrooke's aorta. The surgery was completed Saturday morning, said State Department spokesman P.J. Crowley.

A torn aorta is a condition in which a rip develops in the inner wall of the aorta allowing blood to enter the vessel wall and weaken it. If not corrected the condition can lead to rapid death. As blood enters the wall it reduces blood flow just as if there were a severely bleeding wound, leading to serious internal bleeding, a loss of blood flow and possible complications in organs affected by the lack of blood, according to medical experts.

Even if the surgery has stabilized Holbrooke's condition, recovery is likely to be lengthy.

Holbrooke's illness comes just days before the Obama administration is expected to roll out the results of its review of the Afghanistan war, on Thursday.

Gen. David H. Petraeus, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, Mark Sedwill, NATO's senior civilian representative and Ashraf Ghani, special adviser to Karzai, said in a joint statement that they "wish him a full and fast recovery."

Holbrooke's prolonged absence could effect the administration's ability to put in place—and also sell to a skeptical Congress—its push for Afghan forces to assume a greater role in the fighting, allowing U.S. troops to come home. It is a transition in which Holbrooke was expected to play an important part. He has made many visits to the region and developed relationships with leaders in both Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The feisty and sometimes abrasive diplomat—whose forceful style earned him nicknames such as "The Bulldozer" or "Raging Bull"—is perhaps best known for helping broker the 1995 agreement that ended the war in Bosnia.

He served as ambassador to the United Nations during the Clinton administration. He also was ambassador to Germany from 1993 to 1994 and then assistant secretary of state for European affairs.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Handyman admits to killing at least 8 Mass. women

**SPRINGFIELD, Mass.** (AP)—He's killed more people than the Son of Sam, but there are no made-for-TV movies about Alfred Gaynor. The one-time handyman did not even pick up a macabre nickname as he attacked and strangled at least eight women in his hometown of Springfield in the 1990s, becoming one of his state's most prolific serial killers. The scale of his killing spree only recently became clear when Gaynor, imprisoned on four murder convictions, confessed this fall to four other unsolved slayings in which he'd been a longtime suspect. Charges are possible in two more deaths for which he's confessed: a 20-year-old mother and her toddler daughter in 1996.

#### Body of man ravaged by wild dogs found in rural NM

**GALLUP, N.M.** (AP)—Authorities say a 55-year-old old man was attacked and mauled to death by a pack of wild dogs in a rural part of New Mexico. McKinley County Sheriff's Lt. Thomas Mumford described the man as

"severely ravaged." The man was taken by ambulance to Gallup Indian Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead. Sheriff's investigators, the Navajo Nation police and the FBI are trying to determine what happened Wednesday in the rural area east of Gallup. No identification has been released as authorities try to notify relatives.

#### 2 hurt when large boulders fall on Hawaii home

**AIEA, Hawaii** (AP)—Authorities say two people were hospitalized after two large boulders fell on their home in Hawaii. Fire officials say the boulders slammed into the back bedroom of the two-story home in Aiea, near Honolulu, Saturday evening. One of the rocks was estimated to be at least 5 feet in diameter, the other about half that size. The names of the two people have not been released, but KITV-TV reports a husband and his wife were in the room that was hit. The 50-year-old man suffered a fractured leg, while his 36-year-old wife was trapped under the debris. Honolulu Fire Department Capt. Gary Lum described the two as "very lucky."



# Asia

## PH rebels welcome move to free detainees

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A Philippine government decision to drop charges against 43 health workers detained for months on suspicion of being insurgents will bolster planned talks on ending the 4-decade-long communist rebellion, the rebels said Sunday.

On Friday, President Benigno Aquino III ordered prosecutors to drop charges against the “Morong 43,” named after the coastal town east of Manila where they were arrested in February.

While the underground Communist Party of the Philippines welcomed the decision, it said Aquino’s government needs to do more to improve human rights, adding that about 400 other political detainees are still being held.

Government negotiator Alexander Padilla said authorities are reviewing the cases of several other detainees.

The rebels took up arms 41 years ago to establish a Marxist state, accusing the government of failing to solve deep poverty, social and political divisions, and of being subservient to U.S. interests. An estimated 120,000 people have died in the conflict.

After years of impasse, Padilla met with his rebel counterpart, Luis Jalandoni, in Hong Kong a few weeks ago. They

agreed to a 19-day Christmas cease-fire starting Dec. 16 and talks in January to discuss the planned resumption of formal negotiations the following month.

Aquino’s order to drop the charges against the health workers is a “boost of goodwill for the forthcoming resumption of peace negotiations,” the communist party said in a statement.

But it added that “there are a thousand more steps that the Aquino government needs to do in the face of the worsening

human rights conditions in the country.”

The 43 detainees have insisted they are volunteer medical workers and accused troops of planting weapons and bomb-making materials as evidence against them. They became a symbol of widespread allegations of human rights violations by government forces.

In a speech marking International Human Rights Day, Aquino said Friday that the medical workers were arrested on suspicion of aiding the rebels.



Relatives of the 43 health workers arrested and jailed, shout slogans during a rally to mark the 62nd anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights at Mendiola near the Presidential Palace Friday Dec. 10, 2010 in Manila, Philippines.

## SKorean fishing boat sank in Antarctic Ocean

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)**—Fishing boats searched for 17 missing sailors from a South Korean vessel that sank Monday in the Antarctic Ocean, leaving five dead, officials said. Twenty sailors were rescued.

The 614-ton fishing boat with 42 sailors aboard sank about 4:30 a.m. South Korean time (1930 GMT), some 1,400 miles (2,250 kilometers) south of New Zealand, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry and coast guard said.

Maritime New Zealand said 20 survivors were recovered from the South Korean owned

and operated No.1 In Sung fishing boat. South Korean and New Zealand fishing vessels were looking for the missing sailors.

On board the sunken vessel were eight South Koreans, eight Chinese, 11 Indonesians, 11 Vietnamese, three Filipinos and one Russian, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The dead included two Indonesians, two South Koreans and one Vietnamese, a ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of office rules.

New Zealand’s search and rescue coordination center said the 20 survivors and five dead fishermen were on board the South Korean fishing vessel No. 707 Hongjin. Survival times in the water in the area would likely be about 10 minutes without lifejackets or immersion suits, the center said in a statement.

South Korean media outlets reported that high waves in the area were hampering the rescue operation.

Officials at the South Korean-based company that owns the boat had no immediate comment.

Ranariddh, 68, was elected new president of the Norodom Ranariddh Party at a party congress Saturday in the capital, Phnom Penh, party spokesman Pen Sangha said. “The party members felt that only the prince has enough ability to lead the party,” Pen Sangha said.

### Indonesian artist sells volcano ash as souvenirs

**JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)**—An Indonesian artist is selling tourist souvenirs of ash from the country’s most volatile volcano to raise money for victims of its eruptions. The English-language daily The Jakarta Globe reported Monday that Agus Budi Setiawan is selling volcano souvenirs—small clear bottles containing volcanic ash—for \$1 per bottle. The bottles feature packaging with an illustration of Mount Merapi. The volcano on Java island has killed 386 people since bursting back to life in late October and forced more than 17,000 to flee.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### Suicide bombing kills 6 NATO troops in Afghanistan

**KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)**—An explosives-packed minibus blew up at the entrance of a joint NATO-Afghan base in southern Afghanistan on Sunday, killing six NATO troops and two Afghan soldiers as they prepared to head out on patrol. NATO has claimed improvements in security after months of raids, patrols and strikes on insurgents in Kandahar province, but Sunday’s blast—the deadliest attack on coalition troops this month—shows the area is still far from safe.

#### Cambodian Prince Ranariddh returns to politics

**PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)**—Prince Norodom Ranariddh, a key leader in post-civil war Cambodia, has returned from two years of retirement to lead the party bearing his name ahead of upcoming elections, a spokesman said Sunday.

# World

## Swedes shocked by 1st terror attack in 3 decades

**STOCKHOLM (AP)**—No one died except for the suspected bomber, but two explosions in Sweden’s capital tore at the fabric of this tolerant and open nation—a society that hadn’t seen a terrorist attack in more than three decades. Two people were wounded in central Stockholm on Saturday in what appeared to be the first suicide bombing in the history of Sweden, which has been spared the major terrorist strikes seen in several other European countries.

A car exploded in the middle of the seasonal shopping frenzy, shooting flames and causing several smaller blasts as people ran screaming from the scene. The blast that killed the alleged bomber came moments later a few blocks away from the car explosion on a busy pedestrian street.

Experts said the alleged

bomber probably didn’t succeed in detonating all the explosives and could have caused much greater damage.

Although police haven’t confirmed Saturday’s attack was motivated by Islamist views, an audio file sent to Swedish news agency TT shortly before the blast referred to jihad, Sweden’s military presence in Afghanistan and a cartoon by a Swedish artist that depicted the Prophet Muhammad as a dog, enraging many Muslims.

It hasn’t been verified that the speaker is the person who set off the explosive, but police have said they are investigating that possibility.

“Now the Islamic state has been created. We now exist here in Europe and in Sweden. We are a reality,” the voice said in the file, submitted to The Associated Press by TT. “I don’t want to say more about this. Our actions

will speak for themselves.”

Police in the UK searched a property in Bedfordshire Saturday after reports that the alleged bomber lived in Luton and studied at the University of Bedfordshire, the Press Association of Britain reported. No arrests had been made and no hazardous materials were found at the property, authorities said.

Swedish Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt on Sunday said the attack was “unacceptable” but urged Swedes not to jump to “premature conclusions” that “create tension which paints pictures that are then difficult to change.”

“Sweden is an open society ... which has stated a wish that people should be able to have different backgrounds, believe in different in gods ... and live side by side in our open society,” Reinfeldt said at a news conference.

## Palestinians express doubts over 2-state future

**JERUSALEM (AP)**—Conventional wisdom on Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking has long held that Israel should relinquish most of the lands it occupied in 1967 in favor of a Palestinian state—the “two-state solution” that much of the world has supported for years.

But the utter lack of progress in peace talks and continued Jewish settlement in the West Bank has many people warning that Israel might instead be headed toward a one-state reality, with a permanent occupation of the West Bank and a Jewish minority ruling over an Arab majority—unless, perhaps, the world forces it to give the Palestinians the right to vote.

“If Israel continues with these measures that it is employing today, the possibility of a two-state solution becomes very slim, if

any,” Mohammed Ishtayeh, a senior adviser to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, said Sunday. “In the long run Israel is in the losing track. The Israeli leadership today is very shortsighted.”

The startling departure from the widely accepted notion of Israel as the stronger side is increasingly common and a function of demographics: In the contiguous land mass formed by Israel proper and the areas the Palestinians want for their state, Arabs have probably caught up to the Jews numerically, and they have the higher birthrate. Viewed through this prism, it is in Israel’s vital interest—hardly a “concession”—to seek partition.

Ishtayeh said the “two-state solution is a win-win situation” for both sides, and warned:

“If Israel loses this opportunity then you are going into the ‘South Africanization’ of the Palestinian question”—a situation in which a minority rules over a disenfranchised majority, and that majority demands equal rights in a shared state.

Officially, both sides remain committed to the U.S.-led effort, which began in September, to negotiate the creation of a Palestinian state within a year.

But those talks ran aground three weeks after they began, when the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ended a 10-month freeze on new Jewish settlement construction in the West Bank, prompting a Palestinian walk out. The Obama administration last week announced it was ending two months of efforts to coax Israel into resuming the freeze.

### WORLD BRIEFS

#### Palin: Haiti needs ‘military airlift’ of supplies

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)**—Sarah Palin urged Americans on Sunday not to forget Haiti as she wrapped up a weekend visit to an aid group’s sites in this country vexed by a cholera epidemic, earthquake reconstruction and political crisis. Accompanied by her husband, Todd; daughter Bristol, a Fox News crew and the Rev. Franklin Graham, who runs the aid group that hosted her, the former Alaska governor and vice presidential candidate arrived in Haiti during a respite from the riots and violence that have followed the Caribbean nation’s dysfunctional Nov. 28 election.

#### Mexicans march in support of ‘Craziest’ kingpin

**MORELIA, Mexico (AP)**—A peace march called by local authorities in western Mexico turned into a show of support for a slain drug lord Sunday, with adults and children carrying signs lauding the capo known for handing out Bibles to the poor. Hundreds of people turned out for the march in Apatzingan, the birth place

of La Familia cartel leader Nazario Moreno, who was known as “The Craziest One” and reputedly indoctrinated his gang members in pseudo-Christian ideology. The government says Moreno was killed in Apatzingan on Thursday in a shootout with federal police.

#### Hundreds protest against Russian government

**MOSCOW (AP)**—Hundreds of people protested against the Russian government Sunday at two separate rallies in Moscow, with opposition activists calling for the resignation of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and nationalists demanding greater rights for ethnic Russians. Several opposition activists were detained. A third rally with nationalist overtones drew more than 1,000 students in the southern city of Rostov-on-Don, raising fears that long-standing ethnic tensions were reaching a boiling point. The rallies followed violent clashes Saturday just outside the Kremlin walls between riot police and about 5,000 football fans and nationalists, who shouted “Russia for Russians.”



## Focus

# On climate, the elephant that's ignored

**C**ANCUN, Mexico (AP)—The latest international deal on climate, reached early Saturday after hard days of bargaining, was described by exhausted delegates as a “step forward” in grappling with global warming. If they step too far, however, they’re going to bump into an elephant in the room.

That would be the U.S. Republican Party, and nobody at the Cancun meetings wanted to talk about the impending Republican takeover of the U.S. House of Representatives. It essentially rules out any new, legally binding pact requiring the U.S. and

other major emitters of global warming gases to reduce their emissions.

In endless hours of speeches at the annual U.N. climate conference, the U.S. political situation was hardly mentioned, despite its crucial role in how the world will confront what the Cancun final documents called “one of the greatest challenges of our time.”

Not everyone held his tongue. Seas rising from warming, and threatening their homes, got Pacific islanders talking.

Marcus Stephen, president of Nauru, spoke despairingly of “governments deadlocked because of ideological divisions.” Enele Sopoaga, Tuvalu’s deputy prime minister, referred to the “backward politics” of one unnamed developed nation.

A U.S. friend, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi of Ethiopia, told a large gathering here, “The key thing for us is not whether the American Congress is controlled by this or that party,” but that richer nations help the developing world with financial support—for clean energy sources, new seawalls, new water systems and other projects to try to stem and cope with climate change and the droughts, floods, disease and extreme weather it portends.

“Which party” does matter, however. Many Republicans dismiss scientific evidence of human-caused warming, citing arguments by skeptics that the large majority of scientists are wrong or that the consequences of warming are overstated.

Early in the two-week conference here, four Republican members of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee sent a letter to Secretary of State Hillary Rodham



A man walks next to Greenpeace activists who form the word hope as a question with their bodies, next to a giant life saver, during a demonstration near the site of the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Cancun, Mexico, Friday, Nov. 10, 2010.

Clinton demanding a freeze on about \$3 billion in planned U.S. climate aid in 2010-2011.

The senators said some findings of

the U.N.’s climate change panel “were found to be exaggerated or simply not true” and said that at a time of record U.S. budget deficits, “no American tax-

payer dollars should be committed to a global climate fund based on information that is not accurate.”

The leader of the protest, Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, called the financing an “international climate change bailout.” What will they call the long-term finance plan embraced at the Cancun conference, for \$100 billion a year in U.S. and other international climate financing by 2020?

Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg, who with Zenawi co-chaired a U.N. panel on climate financing, was asked how this U.S. opposition can be overcome.

“I believe that many things might happen in American politics in a period of 10 years,” he replied.

Such long, wishful views have dominated the climate talks for two decades, as the U.S. remained outside the 1997 Kyoto Protocol and the modest mandatory reductions in emissions that other industrial nations accepted.

For the world to agree on a new, all-encompassing treaty with deeper cuts to succeed Kyoto, whose targets expire in 2012, the U.S. Congress must pass legislation to cap U.S. industrial emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.

“I don’t think that’s going to happen right away,” Todd Stern, chief U.S. negotiator, said with understatement here early Saturday.

Instead, the Cancun talks, waiting for another day, focused on small steps on climate: some advances in establishing a system to compensate developing nations for protecting their forests, for example, and in setting up a global clearinghouse for “green” technology

for developing nations.

Cancun’s chief accomplishment was to decide to create, with details to come, a Green Climate Fund that will handle those expected tens of billions of dollars in climate support.

This slowly-slowly approach began at the climate summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, last year, when the U.S., China, other big emitters and some small one pledged to carry out voluntary reductions in emissions.

Some say this will be the way global warming will be addressed, not with “topdown,” legally binding treaties, but with self-assigned targets, bilateral deals to help create low-carbon economies, aspirational goals set by G-20 summits. If the world busies itself with such voluntary activities, this thinking goes, it may all add up to climate protection.

But scientists do numbers better than politicians. And the latest U.N. scientific calculation shows that the current emissions-reduction pledges, even if all are fulfilled, will barely get the world halfway to keeping temperatures rising to dangerous levels. The U.S. pledge—based on executive, not congressional action—is for a mere 3 percent reduction of emissions below 1990 levels.

If too little is done, the U.N. science network foresees temperatures rising by up to 6.4 degrees Celsius (11.5 degrees F) by 2100. In a timely reminder of what’s at stake, NASA reported last week that the January-November 2010 period was the warmest globally in the 131-year record.

At that rate, climate will become the elephant no one can ignore.

## Cutting greenhouse gases

*Almost 200 nations will meet in Cancun, Mexico, Nov. 29-Dec. 10 for U.N. talks to curb global warming and clarify promises made. Many countries have offered wide ranges for cuts to greenhouse gas emissions, some dependent on what other nations do.*

### Promises to cut

**Canada** 17 percent from 2005 levels

**U.S.** 17 percent from 2005 levels

**Mexico** Up to 30 percent below “business as usual”

**Brazil** Between 36.1-38.9 percent below “business as usual” levels

**EU** 20 percent; 30 if others act from 1990 levels

**Indonesia** 26 percent by 2020

**Australia** 5 percent from 2000 levels; 25 percent if strong global deal

**Russia** 15-20 percent from 1990 levels

**Japan** 25 percent from 1990 levels

**South Korea** 30 percent below “business as usual”

**China** 40-45 percent from 2005 levels per unit of economic output

**India** 20-25 percent from 2005 levels

Source: Reuters, United Nations Climate Change Conference  
Graphic: Melina Yingling

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## Overdrive

## Nissan Altima coupe has plenty of flash

## NUTS &amp; BOLTS

**What we say:** Great looking fuel-sipper**Pro:** Gorgeous, frugal**Con:** Not what its looks suggest

## Stats

**Engine:** 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder**Wheelbase:** 105.3 inches**Length:** 180.9 inches**Weight:** 3,125 pounds**Cargo space:** 8.2 cubic feet**EPA rating (city/highway):** 23/32 mpg**Fuel consumption:** 29.8 mpg**Fuel type:** Regular**Base price, base model:** \$22,440**Base price, test model:** \$22,940**As tested:** \$29,345

Nissan Altima Coupe.

MCT

By LARRY PRINTZ  
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

**W**ho doesn't appreciate Target? Oh, excuse me, Tar-jay.

This is the store that taught Americans that inexpensive goods don't have to be ugly, dowdy or dreary. For example, say you want to buy a coffee maker. You can buy one at Target or at Williams-Sonoma. Both will be made in China, but one will cost a lot more than the other. Both will look good. Both will make a good cup of coffee.

Now, suppose you're looking for a sexy coupe as your new set of wheels. There are plenty of

expensive ones. Even the Nissan Altima coupe, when equipped with a V6 and popular options, can become quite pricey.

So what happens when you swap Nissan's lovely 270-horsepower V6 engine with a 175-horsepower four-cylinder powerplant? It will be almost \$5,000 cheaper, but look just as good. After all, this car is a looker. While the front end resembles the Altima sedan, the rest of the car takes its inspiration from the rakish Infiniti G37 coupe. The Nissan has a bit more sculpting to it, but it's quite attractive. So is its starting price: \$22,440.

It was time to find out what it took to live with this car's

heart transplant. Nissan happily obliged, supplying one with a continuously-variable automatic transmission, or CVT as it's commonly known, rather than the standard six-speed manual.

Unlike a conventional transmission with a fixed number of gears, a CVT has an infinite number of gears. Theoretically, this allows the transmission to constantly vary which gear it's in, resulting in lower fuel consumption. Usually, CVT transmissions can't handle huge amounts of power, limiting their usefulness in sports cars. They also tend to hesitate if you ask for a sudden burst of speed, as the transmission attempts to decide where it should be. But

the amount of power generated by a four-cylinder is minimal enough for a CVT to handle.

The Altima, with a four under its hood, minimizes this problem, although it still crops up at times. Power from the 2.5-liter four-cylinder is sluggish off the line, but responsive once at speed. The four is perfectly adequate for the daily grind, and returns good mileage: 29.8 mpg during a weeklong test drive. Those with a leaden foot will want more power, since this a sporty coupe, and its styling carries expectations of power and responsive handling. But don't get fooled: This is really an economy car with a great bod.

As for its handling, well, it's

not any different from the four-door sedan.

Instead, concentrate on making sure this car's cabin is as fetching as its sheet metal. You might want to consider outfitting your Altima like the test car: a slate gray exterior and red leather interior, the latter a \$2,060 option.

What others don't have to know, and you don't have to tell them, is that the interior design, while flashy like the car's exterior, has its share of inexpensive plastics. Popping for the leather seats mitigates the downscale feel.

But be careful with the options list.

The test car had the \$2,070

2.5 S Premium Package with power moonroof, satellite radio, Bose audio system, 4.3-inch screen, rear-view camera, USB port and dual climate control; and a \$1,080 Convenience Package with power driver's seat, automatic headlamps and leather-wrapped steering wheel with audio controls. Along with a couple other options (fog lamps and floor mats), the vehicle didn't seem like as much of a bargain, coming in close to close to \$30,000 without a navigation system.

Looking good doesn't have to be expensive, at least with the Nissan Altima coupe. But if you want performance, that's another story.

## No car can 'run away' with its driver

By PAUL BRAND  
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

**QUESTION: I drive a 2009 Toyota and have a fear of a runaway vehicle. The dealer has test-driven the vehicle and told me it's OK. What advice do you have?**

**ANSWER:** Check with the dealer to see if your vehicle has been covered in any recalls or technical service bulletins. More importantly—and this applies to every car owner and motorist—please remember that a motor vehicle cannot “run away” or continue to accelerate unintentionally if you simply shift into neutral or turn off the ignition key. Every driver, regardless of what vehicle they

drive, should practice these simple procedures so that their response will be automatic.

Modern motor vehicles will not “over-rev” in neutral with the throttle open. The engine limiter will hold the engine at about 4000 rpm by cycling fuel delivery on and off. So shifting into neutral will disengage the vehicle's drive and acceleration while maintaining the power steering and power brakes.

But even turning off the ignition while driving will not disable the steering or brakes. You will lose power assist to these systems, meaning you'll need to apply more physical effort to steer/stop the vehicle, but the steering and brakes will continue to operate and allow you to

control the vehicle.

And finally, please remember that you cannot turn the key to the “lock” position unless the transmission shift lever is in park—so you cannot unintentionally lock the steering by turning the ignition off.

Identify and practice these simple procedures to prepare yourself—just in case.

■ ■ ■

**Q: I own a 1999 Oldsmobile Eighty-Eight with 62,000 miles on it that I bought new. The last time I had it inspected, the mechanic indicated that the brake lines are rusty and I should think about replacing them. What are your thoughts?**

**A:** Of all the things that could

possibly fail on an automobile and put the occupants at risk, this may well be the single most overlooked potential failure. The steel hydraulic brake lines typically run underneath the vehicle, where they are exposed to road debris, salt and sand. Just like the chassis and body of the vehicle, they can rust when exposed to these elements in harsh climates.

Interestingly, steel brake lines may be as vulnerable to corrosion from the inside due to moisture absorbed into the hydraulic brake fluid. This is why many car makers, mechanics and enthusiasts—including me—suggest changing brake fluid every couple of years by bleeding the brake system to fully exchange the fluid with fresh, uncontaminated brake fluid.

If you've never had the brake fluid changed, or the mechanic can visually show you brake lines with textured, scaly or flaky corrosion, by all means have them replaced. No question the cost of replacement will be far less than the cost and consequences of brake failure while driving.

■ ■ ■

**Q: I have a 2003 Toyota Camry with 89,463 miles on it. The auto shop tells me I need to replace the timing belt at 90,000 miles. Is this true? Is there any way I would know whether it is really needed? I am on a fixed income, and this is very expensive.**

**A:** You didn't identify which engine is in your Camry. The 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine uses a timing chain that does not need periodic replacement.

The 3-liter V6 engine does use belt-driven camshafts, and Toyota recommends replacement of the belt at 90,000 miles or 72 months. Although this is not an interference engine and would not be damaged by timing-belt failure, you'll know precisely when it fails because the engine will stop dead in its tracks.

*Paul Brand, author of “How to Repair Your Car,” is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via e-mail at paul-brand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.*



## Life & Style

# A journey into Fiji's heart and soul

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
haidee\_eugenio@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

*Last of a two-part series*

### Partying, Fiji-style

After the sumptuous Fijian lunch, we stood up and we were each given leis. They also put powder on our faces that they said symbolizes their thankfulness for our visit and an invitation to what came next. Each one of us was brought to the dance floor by village men and women, young and old. There was no way you could escape the dance invitations.

At one point, we all formed a human chain as we continued dancing Fijian-style, into the adjacent room and back to the main hall, to the tune of villagers' own songs. It was pure joy, pure humanity.

But as they say, some great things never last. The villagers—in their own language—blessed us again as we prepared to leave. It was still raining so some villagers escorted us with their umbrellas back to the jet boat departure point. When we left Naveyago, it felt as if we left with feelings of a deep village connection.

### From gentle raindrops to rain bullets

What started out as gentle raindrops became rain bullets, hitting and hurting our faces, as the jet boat ride hits full throttle. Because I lost my shades to the river on our way to the village, I didn't have anything else to protect my eyes. At first, I just buried my face in my hands while ducked behind the passengers in front of me. But it was unacceptable not to be able to marvel at nature's wonders on our way back. Instead of continuing to dodge rain bullets, I fought back. I faced the opposite direction but still kept my hand on the railing, and there it was—a sensory overload with hills and mountains, lush vegetation, villages, the horizon.

The high-octane thrills didn't end there. Cap-



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
Children pose with their mothers while selling fresh produce from the fertile Sigatoka Valley at the Sigatoka town market.

tain "High Jack" accelerated the speed and then made a few 360-degree turns, splashing river water on all of us in addition to the rainwater we've already been soaked in since we left the village. If one didn't hold on to the railing in front of them, they could be easily thrown into the water. Nobody wanted to be fished out of the river.

We wrapped up the day chilling out at the Black Marlin bar, at Shangri-La's Fijian Resort & Spa, just 500 meters from Gecko's Resort where we stayed. The Shangri-La was on a separate island called Yanuca, connected to the mainland by a short causeway that we traversed every night to and from our hotel.

Gecko's Resort on Coral Coast is a great place to stay with its personalized service, given that it has only 35 rooms. Besides personable staff and good food, what is also great about Gecko's Resort is that it shares a historic village site with the Kalevu Cultural Center. On the grounds of the property are several thatches that showcase Fijian artistry and artifacts such as ancient weaponry, tapa and pottery.

### Driving in Fiji

In Fiji, vehicles are right-hand drive, and it was a bit disorienting at first for those who are used to left-hand drive wheels. Ron would always open the passenger door for me, only to find that I was headed for the driver's door. It took me a few more stops to get used to it.

On the day we arrived at Fiji's Nadi International Airport, we drove to a public market and got us some bananas and ripe mangoes, which were in season. It was in this market where I snapped my first photos of Fiji, including bananas as huge as pineapples.

Cruising Nadi's town, my heart would skip a beat as people seemed to come from nowhere to cross the street. Pothole-laden roads, traffic loops, speed bumps and wandering stock made driving in many areas a bit more challenging.

Nadi's Port Denarau Marina is an entirely different world from where we were just minutes before that. This marina is one of the major departure points for cruises and sea transfers to the Mamanuca and Yasawa Islands. Port Denarau Marina is also home to fine boutique shops, cafes and restaurants, set against a spectacular backdrop of the ocean and mountains.

When we left the marina after an early lunch of coral trout, we passed by the iconic Sri Siva Subrahmaniya Swami Temple, the largest and finest South Indian temple of its kind in the South Pacific. It requires people to take off their shoes, pay a nominal fee, and take photos of the colorful façade only from a certain distance.

From Nadi, we set off on a one-hour drive to Coral Coast, a 130-km stretch of beautiful beaches and bays. Fiji's bustling tourism industry started on Coral Coast on the southwest of Viti Levu, with a single resort in the 1950s. Clear blue skies gave way to overcast skies and later, to pouring rain. The weather cleared before we got to our hotel.

### Visiting Suva

The longest drive we had on Fiji was from Gecko's Resort to the island nation's capital of Suva. It took us four hours, back and forth, but we enjoyed every moment of the journey. Ron's music collection got us more into a tropical island vibe. We took over slower moving vehicles, and they didn't seem to mind.

Suva, a bustling harbor city at Viti Levu's southeastern corner, is the largest in the South Pacific with a population of some 247,000. Fiji's population is close to 900,000. We went to Suva primarily to meet for the first time my *Islands Business* editor, Laiza Taga, after years of working with her. She has such a warm personality, a sharp mind and deep knowledge about Fiji. I also met the publisher and some of the staff of diverse cultural backgrounds. Ms. Laiza also gave us a good recommendation for lunch. Don't be fooled by the name, but Bad Dog Café serves superb meals and good cocktails.

After a walking tour of Suva, we drove to the University of South Pacific. On our way there, we passed by colonial buildings and rugby practice games on a rainy afternoon.

A day before we left Coral Coast, we went back to the Sigatoka town. An employee of Fiji Market souvenir shop named Mela, whom we met on the day we had the river safari, gave us a personalized walking tour of the town market where one could find fresh produce from Sigatoka Valley. It was again a journey into the heart of the island nation. When Mela went back to her work, Ron and



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A photo taken in front of the University of South Pacific's Research Office in Suva, the bustling capital of Fiji.

I further explored the town. We bought postcards for his mother and my friends, refrigerator magnets for my *Saipan Tribune* editor Jayvee (who has been a collector of these pieces from different

parts of the world), and souvenir clothes for us.

### 'Sand dunes in a tropical paradise'

After a hearty lunch in town, we visited the 560-hectare Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park, a magnificent expanse of sand dunes where researchers discovered the earliest recorded pre-historic sites. It is Fiji's first heritage site, and a proposed UNESCO World Heritage Site.

But before reaching the sand dunes, which are the natural work of wind and waves, we first had to hike hills with great 360-degree views. I never thought I'd see and walk barefoot on sand dunes on a tropical island because the word "dune" alone conjures images of deserts. Were it not for helpful arrows, we would have been lost. The trail back to the park center took us to a relaxing afternoon walk in a mahogany forest.

That night, we got one of the best spots for Gecko's Resort's famous Friday dinner and cultural show, which also attracts guests from the nearby Shangri-La.

We drove back to Nadi on Saturday morning and stayed at Grand West's Villas, until our separate Sunday morning flights. We went back to the Port Denarau Marina for lunch, did some errands, and went back to the hotel. A cyclone was brewing and was expected to hit the area Sunday noon, so Ron decided to change his flight to an earlier one, or he will be stranded in Fiji alone.

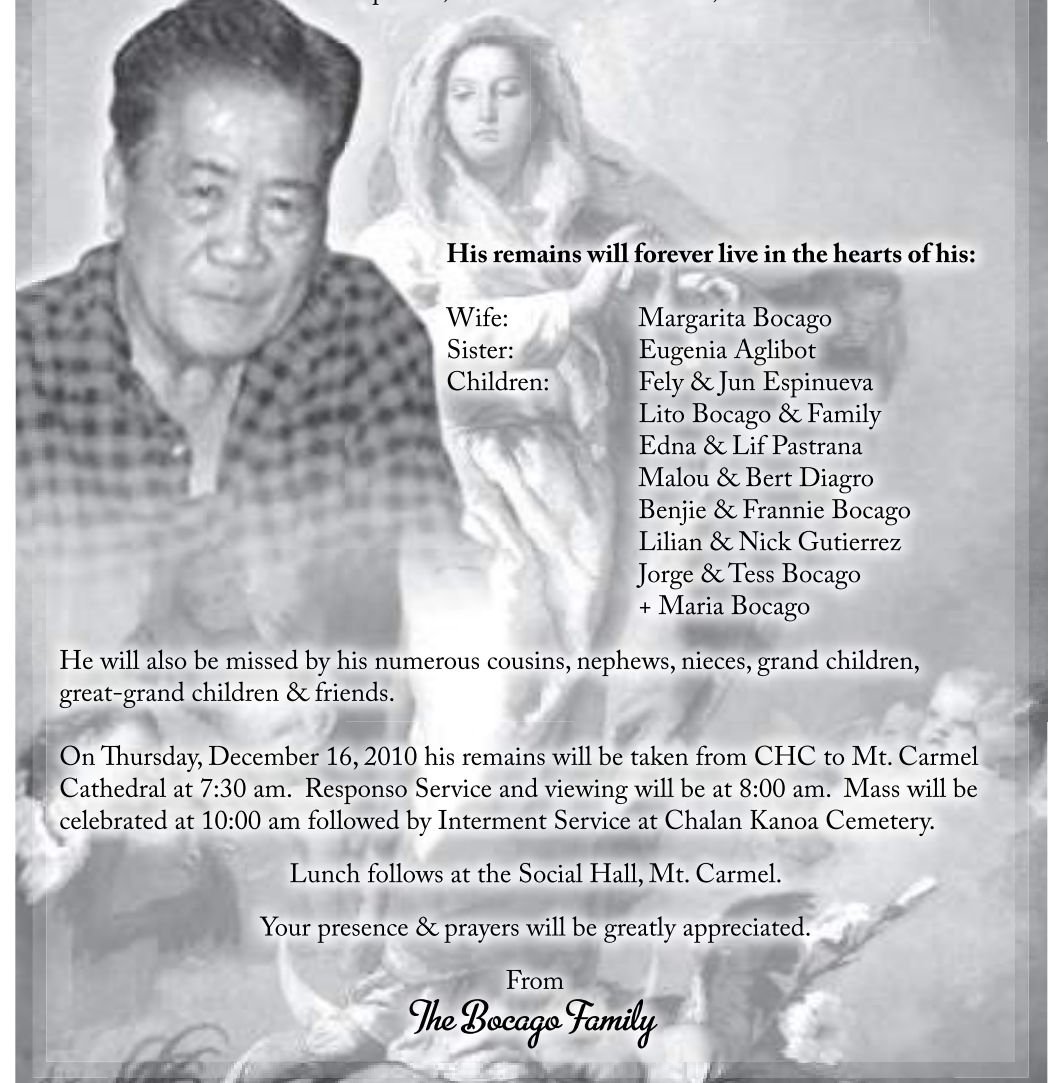
I have since been teasing Ron that he used the approaching cyclone as an excuse when all he wanted was to be with me on the same flight to Guam, even if it meant taking another grueling flight for him from Guam to Honolulu. He has neither confirmed nor denied it.

## Death and Funeral Announcement

### Nicanor A. Bocago

Better known as "Nick"

Born: April 14, 1927 Died: December 8, 2010



His remains will forever live in the hearts of his:

Wife:	Margarita Bocago
Sister:	Eugenia Aglibot
Children:	Fely & Jun Espinueva
	Lito Bocago & Family
	Edna & Lif Pastrana
	Malou & Bert Diagro
	Benjie & Frannie Bocago
	Lilian & Nick Gutierrez
	Jorge & Tess Bocago
	+ Maria Bocago

He will also be missed by his numerous cousins, nephews, nieces, grand children, great-grand children & friends.

On Thursday, December 16, 2010 his remains will be taken from CHC to Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 am. Responso Service and viewing will be at 8:00 am. Mass will be celebrated at 10:00 am followed by Interment Service at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Lunch follows at the Social Hall, Mt. Carmel.

Your presence & prayers will be greatly appreciated.

From  
*The Bocago Family*



# 'Narnia' cruises to No. 1 debut with modest \$24.5M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The latest chapter in "The Chronicles of Narnia" saga has sailed to the top of the weekend box office, though the franchise sank to a weak debut compared to the first two movies.

"The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," the third in the franchise based on C.S. Lewis' fantasy novels, took in \$24.5 million domestically, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie's romantic thriller "The Tourist" opened in second-place with \$17 million.

"Dawn Treader" revenues showed a huge drop from 2005's "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," which took in \$65.6 million over opening weekend, and 2008's "Prince Caspian," which did \$55 million.

But with the movie topping



In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, from left, Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes, Laura Brent, and Skandar Keynes are shown in a scene from, "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader."

\$80 million in 85 countries overseas, for a worldwide total of \$105.5 million, executives at distributor 20th Century Fox said they are making good

headway toward recouping the movie's budget of just under \$150 million.

Sony's "The Tourist" also had a quiet start. The film stars

Jolie as an Englishwoman who picks up a mild-mannered American (Depp) on a train in Europe as a diversion while she's on the run from cops and gangsters.

"You have two of the biggest stars in the world, so expectations could be skewed a bit," said Rory Bruer, Sony's head of distribution. "But it certainly is a respectable opening."

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Disney's animated musical "Tangled," slipped to third-place with \$14.6 million, raising its domestic total to \$115.6 million.

Overall revenues totaled \$94 million, down 3 percent from the same weekend last year, when "The Princess and the Frog" was No. 1, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

In limited release, Natalie Portman's ballet drama

"Black Swan" expanded to more theaters and leaped into the top-10, coming in at No. 6 with \$3.3 million in just 90 cinemas. That gave it a strong average of \$37,024 a theater,

1. "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," \$24.5 million.
2. "The Tourist," \$17 million.
3. "Tangled," \$14.6 million.
4. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1," \$8.5 million.
5. "Unstoppable," \$3.8 million.
6. "Black Swan," \$3.3 million.
7. "Burlesque," \$3.2 million.
8. "Love & Other Drugs," \$3 million.
9. "Due Date," \$2.55 million.
10. "Megamind," \$2.5 million.

compared to \$6,892 in 3,555 cinemas for "Dawn Treader" and \$6,168 in 2,756 locations for "The Tourist."

Distributor Fox Searchlight expands "Black Swan" into nationwide release Friday, three days after the Golden Globe

nominations, where the film is considered a likely contender in acting and other categories. Portman, also a strong Academy Awards prospect, plays a ballerina coming unglued amid the stress of fending off a rival for the lead in "Swan Lake."

Mark Wahlberg and Christian Bale's boxing drama "The Fighter" was the latest awards contender to put up huge numbers in a limited-release opening. The Paramount film took in \$320,000 in four theaters, averaging a whopping \$80,000.

Disney's Shakespeare adaptation "The Tempest," with Helen Mirren playing the traditionally male lead

of the play, opened modestly with \$45,000 in five theaters, for a \$9,000 average.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Final figures will be released Monday.

## 'Social Network' named best film by LA critics

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Facebook drama "The Social Network" was picked as the year's best picture Sunday by the influential Los Angeles Film Critics Association.

The group's best-actor prize went to Colin Firth for the British monarchy tale "The King's Speech," while Kim Hye-ja won best actress for the South Korean drama "Mother." The runners-up were Edgar Ramirez for the terrorist epic "Carlos" and Jennifer Lawrence for the Ozarks crime thriller "Winter's Bone."

Overseas crime dramas won the other acting honors: Jacki Weaver as supporting actress for Australia's "Animal Kingdom" and Niels Arestrup as supporting actor for France's "A Prophet." The runners-up were Olivia Williams for the thriller "The Ghost Writer" and Geoffrey Rush for "The King's Speech."

In a tie vote, the directing prize was shared by David Fincher for "The Social Net-

work" and Olivier Assayas for "Carlos," which also was the best-picture runner-up. "Carlos" won for best foreign-language film, and the runner-up was "Mother."

"The Social Network," which stars Jesse Eisenberg as Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, won two other honors: Aaron Sorkin earned the best-screenplay prize, while composers Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross shared the award for best musical score with Alexandre Desplat for "The Ghost Writer."

The runner-up for best screenplay was David Seidler for "The King's Speech," which stars Firth as Queen Elizabeth II's father, George VI, as he struggles to overcome a debilitating stammer.

Tom Hanks and Tim Allen's blockbuster "Toy Story 3" was chosen as best animated film, while French filmmaker Sylvain Chomet's "The Illusionist" was runner-up.

Winners, including career-achievement recipient Paul

Mazursky, will be honored at a ceremony in Los Angeles on Jan. 15.

Along with the New York Film Critics Circle, which announces its winners Monday, the Los Angeles reviewers' awards are among the key critical picks that help single out potential favorites on the buildup to the Feb. 27 Academy Awards.

"The Social Network" and "The King's Speech" generally are considered the front-runners for the Oscars, whose nominations come out Jan. 25.

Top critics groups usually pick different films, though 2009's "The Hurt Locker" preceded its best-picture win at the Oscars with the same honor from the Los Angeles and New York groups, along with the National Society of Film Critics.

Critics' awards also often go to smaller, even obscure films, though the Los Angeles group went mainstream two years ago and gave its best-picture prize to the animated blockbuster "WALL-E."

## 'Toy Story 3,' 'Social Network' among AFI's top 10

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The blockbusters "Inception" and "Toy Story 3," the Facebook drama "The Social Network," the heist thriller "The Town" and the Western "True Grit" are among the American Film Institute's top 10 movies of the year.

Also on the AFI's list Sunday were the ballet drama "Black Swan," the boxing saga "The Fighter," the lesbian-family tale "The Kids Are All Right," the survival story "127 Hours" and the Ozarks crime thriller "Winter's Bone."

Unlike other film honors, AFI does not rank films or

pick one as the year's best. The filmmakers behind the top-10 choices will be honored at a luncheon Jan. 14.

The British monarchy drama "The King's Speech," an Academy Awards favorite, was ineligible because it is a British production, and the AFI awards honor films with largely American backing. But the AFI did present a special award to "The King's Speech."

Another special award went to the education documentary "Waiting for 'Superman.'" It was ineligible for the AFI's top 10, which hon-

ors narrative films.

This is the first time the honors included special awards, which allow the group to acknowledge "outstanding work outside the traditional AFI criteria," said Bob Gazzale, AFI president.

The AFI also picked its top 10 TV programs of 2010: "The Big C," "Boardwalk Empire," "Breaking Bad," "Glee," "Mad Men," "Modern Family," "The Pacific," "Temple Grandin," "30 Rock" and "The Walking Dead."

The top 10 lists were chosen by two 13-member panels, one each for movies and television.

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The Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30  
 Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30  
 Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15  
 Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Georgie Henley, Ben Barnes  
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Upon returning to Narnia to join Prince Caspian for a voyage on the majestic royal vessel known as The Dawn Treader, Lucy, Edmund, and their cousin Eustace encounter merfolk, dragons, dwarves, and a wandering band of lost warriors. As the edge of the world draws near, their remarkable adventure at sea sails toward an exciting, yet uncertain, conclusion.



The Warrior's Way

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:50  
 Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:50  
 Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10  
 Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush  
 Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

Kate Bosworth, Geoffrey Rush, Danny Huston, and Jang Dong-gun star in this visually inventive hybrid martial arts Western tracing the adventures of an Asian assassin who must fight for his life while hiding out in the Wild West.



Tangled

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:40  
 Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:40  
 Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20  
 Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Mandi Moore, Zachary Levi  
 Children's, Family • Rated PG

### Synopsis

The classic Brothers Grimm fairy tale gets a lavish CG makeover as directors Glen Keane and Dean Wellins team to tell the tale of a fair-haired beauty with long-flowing locks, a gallant hero with a heart of gold, and the evil witch who plots to keep these lovelorn innocents apart.



Faster

Friday 4:30 7:30 9:55  
 Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:55  
 Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30  
 Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

Dwayne Johnson, Billy Bob Thornton  
 Action, Drama • Rated R



Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows 1

Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00  
 Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00  
 Sunday 1:00 4:25 7:00  
 Mon through Thurs 4:00 7:00

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson  
 Fantasy, Children's, Family • Rated PG 13



Burlesque

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45  
 Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45  
 Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05  
 Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Cher, Christina Aguilera  
 Musical • Rated PG 13



Unstoppable

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:35  
 Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:35  
 Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25  
 Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Denzel Washington, Chris Pine  
 Action • Rated PG 13

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# Royal photos show relaxed, loving William and Kate

**LONDON (AP)**—Prince William and Kate Middleton look relaxed, poised and very much in love in official photos released to mark their engagement.

One of the two images by Mario Testino shows the couple, dressed in jeans and casual tops, smiling in each others' arms. The other, more formal, depicts them standing together in a state room at St. James's Palace.

The pictures, released Sunday by the prince's office, were taken by fashion photographer Testino, a royal family favorite who captured some of the most iconic images of William's late mother, Princess Diana.

Testino said the couple appeared "in their prime and brimming with happiness" when he photographed them on Nov. 25.

"I have never felt so much joy as when I see them together," he said.

The Peruvian photographer, who made his name shooting models like Kate Moss, took a series of glamorous black-and-white images of Diana that were published in Vanity Fair in 1997, shortly before her death in a Paris car crash.

William, who is second in line to the British throne, has inherited his mother's poise. In both pictures he and Middleton appear entirely comfortable with the camera and each other.

In the formal photos the couple



This is one of two official portrait photographs taken on Nov. 25, 2010 in the Cornwall Room in St James's Palace, London and released by Clarence House Press Office on Sunday Dec. 12, 2010 to mark the engagement of Britain's Prince William, left, and Catherine Middleton, right.

stands on a red carpet in the palace's Council Chamber—in front of oil paintings of some of William's ancestors—smiling toward the camera, as Middleton rests her left hand on her fiancé's forearm. He wears a gray suit and blue tie over a white shirt, she a smart white dress from Reiss.

The more intimate picture shows the pair smiling broadly as they embrace in front of a window at the palace, with William wrapping his arms around Middleton while she puts her left hand on his chest. Clearly visible is the engagement ring William gave her—an oval sapphire surrounded by diamonds that belonged to his mother.

Both wear jeans, with Middleton sporting a blouse from mid-market retailer Whistles and William wearing a brown sweater over a white shirt from traditional tailors Turnbull and Asser.

William and Middleton, both 28, announced last month that they will marry on April 29 at Westminster Abbey in London.

Testino has often photographed members of the royal family, taking portraits to mark Prince William's 21st birthday in 2003 and his younger brother Prince Harry's 20th birthday the next year. He also has photographed their father, Prince Charles, for Vogue magazine.

## Man bothered and bewildered by crush on younger woman

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 60-year-old man with three children. I'm in excellent health and have been happily married for 39 years.

I have a woman friend at work who is 28. We talk a lot, and I buy her chocolate once a week. I have never tried to see her outside of work and don't intend to, but I like her very much.

Is there something wrong with me that I like her so much?

I think about her constantly. She says it's no problem. I am so fond of her it drives me crazy. I have no bad intentions toward her, and I'm not looking for an affair. She is just such a sweet young lady.

Is it normal to feel like this? Do you think I should try to forget about her?

BLUSHING IN SCHAUMBURG, ILL.



*Dear Abby*

**DEAR BLUSHING:** It has been my experience that the more a person tries NOT to think about something, the more he or she does. Please understand that you are in the throes of an old-fashioned crush. Accept it for what it is; enjoy it while it lasts. The intensity will lessen eventually.

**P.S. If you stop buying her chocolate and quit feeling so guilty, you will hasten the process.**

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a young mother in my early 20s with two young children and another on the way. I have been married to my high school sweetheart for three years. We have been together since we were young teenagers. Both of us come from single-parent families, and our marriage has been less than perfect.

I work a full-time swing shift. My husband works only a part-time swing shift job. I have asked him to take on another part-time job so we can be more comfortable financially, but he refuses. He says if I want more money in the household, I will have to get a second job.

If it wasn't for our families' free baby-sitting, I don't know how we could afford child care. We have no money in the bank, and we are deep in debt. I feel overwhelmed with too much responsibility and don't know what to do about it.

ANONYMOUS MOTHER IN NORTH CAROLINA

**DEAR ANONYMOUS:** Start by telling your husband that with a third child on the way, you are in no position to take on another job—but he IS. If he refuses—and he very well may—then you will need to think seriously about your and your children's future, and to what degree it includes him. And please, until you are financially stable, hold off on having more children.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My girlfriend is Jewish; I am not. Her mother recently found out that I am not circumcised. She has been putting pressure on me to get "snipped." Circumcision at my age would hurt a lot. I am not sure what I should do. What do you suggest?

DOESN'T LIKE PAIN

**DEAR DOESN'T LIKE PAIN:** If you are seriously considering converting to Judaism, then you should discuss your concerns with a rabbi. If not, it's time to inform your girlfriend's mother that there are certain subjects you feel are none of her beeswax—and that part of your anatomy is first on your list.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$12 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in price.)*

## 'Red Dead Redemption' branded game of the year

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Rockstar Games' Wild West epic "Red Dead Redemption" rounded up four trophies at Saturday's Video Game Awards in Los Angeles, including Game of the Year.

Other multiple honorees at Spike TV's eighth annual event were BioWare/Electronic Arts' "Mass Effect 2," which won best Xbox 360 game and two other prizes; and Sony's "God of War III," whose two prizes included best PlayStation 3 game.

Additional major winners included Nintendo's "Super Mario Galaxy 2," best Wii game; Activision Blizzard's "StarCraft II: Wings of Liberty," best PC game; and Sony's "God of War: Ghost of Sparta," best handheld game.

Spike's award show has become a high-profile showcase for forthcoming video games. This year's broadcast featured debut trailers for BioWare's "Mass Effect 3," Warner Bros.' "Batman: Arkham City," and Sony's "Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception." The program was hosted by Neil Patrick Harris, who won the "best performance by a human male" VGA for providing the voice of Peter Parker and Spider-Man in Activision's "Spider-Man: Shattered Dimensions."

## Bieber, 'Bed Intruder Song' top YouTube in 2010

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Antoine Dodson's dramatic reaction to a local crime has spawned the most-watched YouTube video of the year, excepting music videos.

When Dodson, a 24-year-old Alabama student, gave an angry TV interview about an attempted rape against his younger sister, he became a viral hit. When a video turned that rant into an auto-tuned song, "Bed Intruder Song," Dodson became a full-fledged Internet sensation.

The "Bed Intruder Song" is the top YouTube video of the year, the Google Inc.-owned company announced Monday. YouTube added the view counts for two versions of the video, which put its total at over 61 million views.

YouTube separated commercial music videos from their top-10 list. Otherwise, all the top 10 videos would have been by either Justin Bieber, Shakira, Eminem, Rihanna or Lady Gaga.

### ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

#### Nat and Kat make history, win CBS' 'Amazing Race'

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Gal-pal doctors Nat and Kat have crossed the finish line to win "The Amazing Race." They have also made history, becoming the first two-woman team to claim the million-dollar grand prize in the 17 seasons of the CBS reality series. Nat, from Scottsdale, Ariz., and Kat, from Santa Monica, Calif., were first to reach the Los Angeles destination on Sunday's finale. Finishing in second place were a rival female duo, Brook and

With more than 406 million views, Bieber's video for "Baby" trumped all others.

The "Bed Intruder" video was remixed by New York musicians Evan and Michael Gregory who are also known for their Web series "Auto-Tune the News." The song charted on iTunes, with profits being split between Dodson and the Gregorlys.

"Blessings come in disguise," Dodson earlier told The Associated Press.

The second most-watched video was another made-for-YouTube riff: a parody of Ke\$ha's "Tik Tok" by the musical sketch Web series Key of Awesome. More than 50.6 million have watched the mock version of the popular pop song.

In the third most-watched video, a potential new pop star was born. In it, 13-year-old Greyson Chance (who has been compared to Bieber) sings Lady Gaga's "Pa-

Claire, who are best friends and hosts on a home shopping network. Coming in third were dating couple Jill and Thomas, who live in Marina Del Rey, Calif.

#### Former reality star Richie weds rocker beau in LA

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Nicole Richie and Joel Madden have gone from reality star and rocker to husband and wife. Richie's publicist Nicole Perna says in an e-mail to The Associated Press Sunday that the 29-year-old socialite and her longtime boyfriend Madden were

parazzi" while playing piano at a sixth-grade music recital.

The top 10 also included: a video from the "Annoying Orange" series; a viral ad from Old Spice; the hysterically happy "double rainbow" guy; OK Go's video to "This Too Shall Pass"; the trailer for the "Twilight" film "Eclipse"; Jimmy Kimmel surprising a 3-year-old Bieber fan with the young star; and a stunt driving video by rally racer Ken Block.

YouTube said it made an exception in its rankings for OK Go's music video because the band is no longer on a major label. In March, the band left EMI's Capitol Records to start Paracade Records.

Mia Quagliarello, YouTube community manager, noted that several of 2010's top videos were made by people or companies that attempt to create YouTube videos for a living. YouTube shares advertising revenue with uploaders who are "partners."

married Saturday in Los Angeles. The 31-year-old Madden fronts the band Good Charlotte. The couple, who dated for more than four years, have a 2-year-old daughter, Harlow Winter Kate, and a 15-month-old son, Sparrow Midnight. Richie won national attention costarring on TV's "The Simple Life" with Paris Hilton and has since been a staple in the tabloids. She has recently taken to writing books and designing clothes. Richie has her own fashion line, Winter Kate, and a shoe and accessories line, House of Harlow.



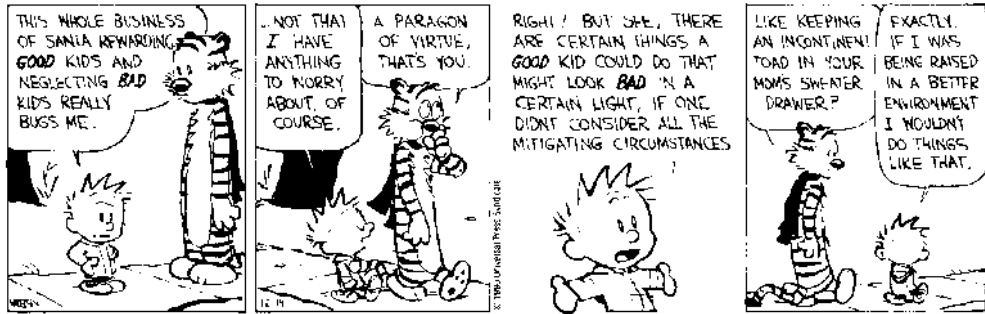
# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Unkempt  
5 Method  
8 Arrived  
12 Protagonist  
13 Past  
14 "Oh, woe!"  
15 the Terrible  
16 Matisse et al.  
18 Tall footed beer glass  
20 Overact  
21 Atmosphere  
22 Sch. group  
23 PIDA communique  
26 Speech sound  
30 High hit  
31 Cushion  
32 Flee  
33 At the center  
36 Bacteria  
38 Minstrel's song  
39 Chignon  
40 South American range

**DOWN**

43 City  
47 Type of hairstyle  
49 Aware of  
50 Spore cases  
51 Poolroom stick  
52 Picture on a laptop  
53 "Phooey!"  
54 Type measures  
55 Information  
2 Jeans-maker Strauss  
3 Exam format  
4 Dwarf tree  
5 Thin cracker  
6 Culture medium  
7 Thee of 54  
8 Alligator's cousin  
9 As well as  
10 Actor Damon  
11 Brutus' being  
17 Presidential power  
19 Zero  
22 Third degree?

**Solution time: 21 mins.**

**Yesterday's answer 12-14**

12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20  
21 22 23  
24 25 26  
27 28 29  
30 31 32  
33 34 35  
36 37 38  
39 40 41  
42 43 44  
45 46 47  
48 49 50  
51 52 53

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Vanessa Hudgens, 22; Sophie Monk, 31; Dee Wallace, 62; Patty Duke, 64

**Happy Birthday:** Explore new avenues and consider your alternatives if you aren't happy with your current situation. Do so quietly and don't share your plans until you have everything in place. Calculated moves will keep you in front of the competition. There is no room for bragging if you want to come out on top. Combine diplomacy with charm. Your numbers are 4, 8, 15, 26, 37, 39, 42

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Take a deep breath and refrain from saying something that might cost you. Not everyone will be on your side or want to agree with you. Consider what's being criticized and how you can turn it into a positive for you. ★★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Take your best shot at achieving your goals and you won't be disappointed. Speak your mind and you will get the backing you need to move ahead. Love is in the stars. A trip or gathering will be informative. ★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** It's what you do for others that will make the difference. Money matters will cause emotional upset if debts can't be paid on time. A last-minute change of plans will leave you undecided about taking part. ★★★★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Work-related problems are likely to set in if you let your emotions get the better of you. Don't take personally anything that is said. A romantic connection will give you something positive to think about. ★★

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Listen to what's being said or offered but don't jump in before you have done your research and understand the risks involved. You have to protect your assets and your future from any sort of negative backlash. Avoid a business or financial partnership. ★★★★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Get your home ready for the end of year festivities. A conversation with someone you love will help to clear up any matters that have been left dangling. Don't allow your emotions to come between you and your money. ★★★★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Follow through with your original plans. Focus on completing unfinished projects. Refuse to let your anger show. Go about your own business and ignore anyone being negative or critical. An old friend or lover may cause problems. ★★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** You must take a position if you want to be taken seriously. Make a decision about travel, education, the skills you have and what you want to add to your resume. Advancement is attainable. ★★★★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Overindulgence will be the enemy. A promise made must be kept if you don't want to look bad. Unforeseen changes at home or within your personal relationships may leave you wondering what's going to happen next. ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Getting together with friends or colleagues for a little festive cheer will result in a greater interest in someone who shares your concerns and hobbies. Let the friendship grow before you decide to let your emotions take over. ★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't ask for favors or offer donations. Protect what you have. An old acquaintance will put pressure on you to get together. Before you accept, remember why you didn't become lasting friends in the first place. ★★★★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Taking on too much will add stress and can make you look bad. You are better off chipping away at what you already have to complete before the year comes to a close, instead of trying to be the super hero. Overdoing, overindulging and overreacting must all be kept in check. ★★★

**Birthday Baby:** You are calculating, masterful and inquisitive. You are adaptable, resourceful and leave nothing to chance.

Eugenia's Web sites: [eugenialast.com](http://eugenialast.com) for confidential consultations, [myspace.com/eugenialast](http://myspace.com/eugenialast)

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

2	8						9	3
4	7			9			2	1
				4	2			
		1				8		
	5						6	
		6				2		
			8	1				
3	6			2			5	9
1	4						8	6

Difficulty Level ★★

12/14

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	6	9	7	4	1	2	5
9	5	7	1	2	6	8	3	4
2	1	4	5	8	3	6	9	7
5	4	1	3	9	8	7	6	2
8	7	3	4	6	2	5	1	9
6	2	9	7	5	1	3	4	8
7	6	2	8	3	9	4	5	1
4	9	5	6	1	7	2	8	3
1	3	8	2	4	5	9	7	6

Difficulty Level ★

## WONDERWORD

By DAVID  
OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The letters spell the Wonderword.

PIERS MORGAN IS REPLACING LARRY KING Solution: 7 letters

R	E	T	S	A	C	D	A	C	R	B	O	O	K	S
S	S	R	I	A	F	F	A	T	N	E	R	R	U	C
E	T	S	E	U	G	O	L	D	E	N	N	Z	I	E
I	N	O	D	N	O	L	E	A	D	O	Y	R	B	L
R	G	R	U	P	F	R	I	X	R	I	I	F	F	H
A	A	O	O	C	R	E	P	A	P	S	W	E	N	B
I	B	M	T	B	A	S	H	O	H	D	C	H	R	R
D	R	A	E	T	S	S	U	H	I	I	S	I	E	I
E	I	R	R	R	A	O	H	C	T	L	T	S	P	T
R	E	O	C	K	E	L	L	N	I	A	O	L	L	I
O	L	S	E	L	I	B	E	V	I	C	R	O	A	E
H	L	A	S	A	R	E	N	R	I	I	P	C	S	
I	F	I	B	I	P	S	S	I	I	I	I	I	F	A
U	S	U	H	P	F	I	N	A	L	I	S	T	A	E
A	D	N	A	M	A	R	S	E	N	A	L	A	E	M

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Yesterday's Answer: Dragon

Wordplay: Send me a word, I'll send you a puzzle. Send me a puzzle, I'll send you a word. Send me a word, I'll send you a puzzle. Send me a puzzle, I'll send you a word. Send me a word, I'll send you a puzzle. Send me a puzzle, I'll send you a word.

## STUMPED?

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**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 07-2010**

Opening date: December 14, 2010 Closing date: December 28, 2010

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

**Position:** (1) Operations Supervisor (Saipan)  
(1) General Maintenance-I (Rota)  
(1) ARFF Training Coordinator (Saipan)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of application is no later than 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 28, 2010.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at [www.cpa.gov.mp](http://www.cpa.gov.mp). For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at [acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp](mailto:acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp) or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO  
Executive Director

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**Robert Tenorio Torres**  
Attorney at Law  
Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya  
P.O. Box 503758  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 234-7859  
Fax: (670) 234-5749  
Attorney for Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
FOR THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

<b>MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,</b>  <b>Plaintiff,</b>  <b>vs.</b> <b>YVONNE A. ATALIG and GODEL OMENGEBAR,</b>  <b>Defendants</b>	<b>Civil Action No. 10-0254-CV</b>  <b>AMENDED SUMMONS</b>
--	--

**TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED  
DEFENDANTS YVONNE A. ATALIG  
and GODEL OMENGEBAR:**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED  
TO APPEAR** by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**; and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT for FORECLOSURE, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2010.

Clerk of Court

**JOE HILL, Esq.**  
HILL LAW OFFICE  
P.O. Box 500917  
Saipan, MP 96950  
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743  
Fax: (670) 234-7753  
Attorney for Petitioners

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

IN THE MATTER OF  
THE ADOPTION AND  
CHANGE OF NAME  
OF:

**PRINCE JOHN  
ABELINDE DIAZ,**  
Minor Child, Adoptee;

By:

**JUAN CAMACHO  
DIAZ and  
ROSEMARIE A. DIAZ,**  
Petitioners.

**FCD AD CIVIL  
ACTION NO.  
10-0591**

**NOTICE OF  
HEARING**

Date:  
January 6, 2011  
Time:  
1:30 pm  
Judge:  
Kenneth L.  
Govendo

Please take notice that at 1:30 p.m., January, 2011, or as soon thereafter as can be heard, this Court will hold a hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan for the specific purpose of:

1. Determining whether a decree of adoption of the minor child, Prince John Abelinde Diaz should be granted to Petitioners herein.
2. Affording any party adversely affected an opportunity to be heard.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2010.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court  
Superior Court

## CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

### ADVERTISING DEADLINE

#### Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:  
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

### CANCELLATION

#### Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

### REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

### CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


### ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



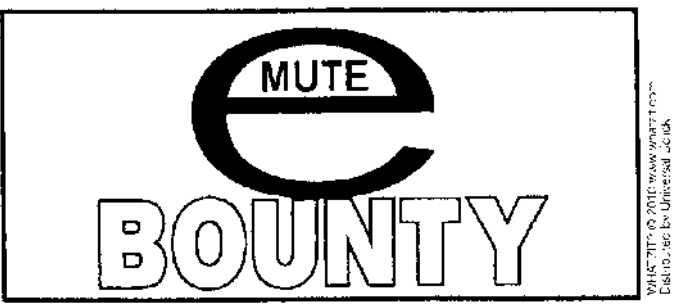
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# Brady, Patriots pound Bears, 36-7



**CHICAGO** (AP)—Tom Brady threw for 369 yards and two touchdowns as the New England Patriots locked up their eighth playoff berth in 10 years with a 36-7 pounding of the Chicago Bears on a snowy, blustery, bone-chilling Sunday.

The win was the fifth straight for the Patriots (11-2), and this one was no less impressive than their 45-3 rout of the New York Jets on Monday night.

Brady completed 27 of 40 passes and went without an interception for the eighth straight game.

## Lions 7, Packers 3

At Detroit, Drew Stanton threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Will Heller midway through the fourth quarter as Green Bay couldn't come back without an injured Aaron Rodgers in Detroit's win.

Detroit (3-10) snapped a five-game losing streak and a 19-game skid against the NFC North, the NFL's worst slump within a division since the merger four decades ago.

## Eagles 30, Cowboys 27

At Arlington, Texas, DeSean Jackson had 210 yards receiving, including a 91-yard, go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter as Philadelphia beat Dallas.

Philadelphia (9-4) ended a three-game losing skid to its NFC East rival and moved a half-game ahead of the New York Giants in the division race. The Eagles will take a streak of five wins in six games to New York on Sunday for a showdown with the Giants.

## Jaguars 38, Raiders 31

At Jacksonville, Florida, David Garrard threw three touchdown passes, and Maurice Jones-Drew and Rashad Jennings each topped 100 yards rushing as Jacksonville beat Oakland.

The Jaguars overcame a 10-point



New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) throws a pass against the Chicago Bears in the first half of an NFL football game in Chicago, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010.

deficit to win for the fifth time in the last six games, setting up a critical AFC South game at Indianapolis next week.

## Buccaneers 17, Redskins 16

At Landover, Maryland, Santana Moss' 6-yard touchdown catch put Washington within a point, but Nick Sundberg's slightly high snap on a wet field went through holder Hunter Smith's hands.

The Buccaneers improved to 8-5

and broke a two-game losing streak. It was also the fifth time this season Josh Freeman has won a game with a fourth-quarter comeback. He hit Kellen Winslow for a 41-yard scoring pass with 3:47 to play.

## Steelers 23, Bengals 7

At Pittsburgh, Troy Polamalu and LaMarr Woodley returned interceptions by Carson Palmer for touchdowns as

Cincinnati dropped a franchise record 10th straight game.

The Steelers (10-3) couldn't get into the end zone on offense despite dominating time of possession—a 9 1/2-minute drive produced no points—but it didn't matter as they closed in on a playoff spot by playing well enough to beat the Bengals (2-11).

## Bills 13, Browns 6

At Orchard Park, New York, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson and Leodis McKelvin made a late interception as Buffalo downed Cleveland.

Rian Lindell hit field goals of 30 and 19 yards to help the Bills (3-11) snap a three-game losing streak against Cleveland.

## Falcons 31, Panthers 10

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Michael Turner ran for 112 yards and three touchdowns, and Matt Ryan threw for another as Atlanta held onto the best record in the National Football Conference.

The Falcons (11-2) built a 17-0 halftime lead, survived a brief hiccup to start the third quarter, and cruised to their seventh straight win. John Abraham and Kroy Biermann each had two sacks as the Falcons became the latest team to shut down the NFL's worst offense.

## 49ers 40, Seahawks 21

At San Francisco, Alex Smith threw for 255 yards and three touchdowns in a triumphant return to the starting lineup following a five-game absence as San Francisco improved its playoff hopes.

The Niners muddled up the ugly West race even more with a surprisingly lopsided win.

San Francisco (5-8) moved within a game of division leaders Seattle (6-7) and St. Louis. The 49ers looked much more like the team that was predicted

to win the division after an unbeaten preseason.

## Dolphins 10, Jets 6

At East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Miami Dolphins turned two early turnovers into their only points in winning at the rainy Meadowlands.

Much of the game was played in a downpour, which made for inept offense in the sloppy conditions. The Dolphins gained 132 yards, with Chad Henne passing for only 55, yet improved to 7-6.

## Saints 31, Rams 13

At New Orleans, Drew Brees threw for three scores and Malcolm Jenkins returned one of his two interceptions 96 yards for his first career touchdown as New Orleans won its sixth straight game.

Marques Colston had a pair of touchdown catches in traffic as New Orleans (10-3) raced to a 14-0 lead and never trailed. Lance Moore made a 31-yard touchdown catch.

## Chargers 31, Chiefs 0

At San Diego, Philip Rivers threw two touchdown passes to Malcom Floyd as San Diego remained alive in the American Football Conference West race.

The Chiefs played without quarterback Matt Cassel, who didn't travel after having an emergency appendectomy Wednesday.

## Cardinals 43, Broncos 13

At Glendale, Arizona, Jay Feely became the fourth kicker in 40 years to run for a touchdown and added a career-best five field goals to help Arizona end a seven-game losing streak.

Arizona rookie quarterback John Skelton completed 14 of 36 for 141 yards with no interceptions and had at least four passes dropped in his first NFL start.

## Dome disaster: Snow wrecks Vikings' home

**MINNEAPOLIS** (AP)—The Minnesota Vikings' long push for a new stadium has been stuck in neutral for more than a decade, but scary images of the Metrodome's wrecked roof might accelerate the process.

While stadium workers started the cleanup and repair Sunday after a storm that brought 17 inches of snow and wind gusts up to 30 mph the day before, the Vikings left for Detroit, where their game against the New York Giants was moved by the NFL for Monday.

Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission chairman Roy Terwilliger said he's optimistic the roof can be repaired in time for the Vikings to host the Chicago Bears in their next scheduled home game on Dec. 20, giving workers eight days to replace three damaged panels and re-raise the Teflon roof.

Vikings vice president of public affairs and stadium development Lester Bagley declined to comment on how the collapse could affect the team's push for

a new facility. Their lease at the Metrodome runs through the 2011 season, and they've said they won't renew it.

"We've worked particularly close with the Vikings over the last two or three years on plans and designs and steps and obviously it can't help but call attention to the fact that the facility is 28 years old," Terwilliger said. "It's one of the oldest facilities in the NFL. There's a problem when we run this risk of not being able to play a game, because it's a huge economic hit to the team. But the policymakers will handle these issues."

Giants chief executive and co-owner John Mara said he believes this "bolsters their argument why they need a new stadium. For this to happen nowadays is pretty incredible," he said.

State leaders have said there's little they can do for the team until they solve a \$6 billion plus deficit. The Vikings are working on a new proposal to present to the Legislature after the session begins in January. They've

been contacted by two Los Angeles-based groups interested in bringing an NFL team to the nation's second-largest market, but so far they've said they remain "committed to finding a solution in Minnesota."

The Vikings previously pledged roughly one-third of the cost for a new stadium, estimated at \$700 million or far more depending on the model and the site, but they've had difficulty getting traction on public funding to pay for the rest.

Gov.-elect Mark Dayton stopped by the Metrodome Sunday morning to "make a quick assessment for future decisions," his spokeswoman Katie Tinucci said, without elaborating. She said Dayton wanted to thank the workers for their cleanup efforts, and he described the scene inside as "eerie."

Tinucci said it was too early for Dayton to comment on how the collapse could affect the team's desire for a new stadium, but Dayton supported the concept during his campaign.

He has said he'd support a stadium proposal if the public benefits outweigh the public's cost, without being specific.

There's a lot of work to be done at the dome before the next scheduled game on Dec. 20, considering the scene inside the cold, darkened stadium following the 5 a.m. collapse.

Snow plopped onto the artificial turf through a gaping hole above the 30-yard-line, as a piece of the Teflon-coated fiberglass roof roughly 10 yards long flapped in the wind. It glowed eerily in the sunlight dangling not far above the field. Speakers that hang from the roof were still safely above the seats and the field.

The seats sit low enough that it appears people would have been out of harm's way had the roof fallen during a game.

"I don't see any real impact on the seating," MSFC director of facilities and engineering Steve Maki said.

Maki said he was coordinating with the original manufacturer and installer of the mate-

rial, Birdair Inc. of Amherst, N.Y., on a plan to fix the roof. It has now fallen four times, all due to heavy snow, since the stadium opened nearly 30 years ago. But the last time was 27 years ago—when a collapse in April 1983 forced postponement of a Twins baseball game. Terwilliger said this was the worst of the collapses.

"This just came very fast. It was heavily loaded, and the wind was just unbelievable," said Maki, who halted the snowmelt process and called his crew down from the roof Saturday night out of concern for their safety. "It almost knocked me on my rear end."

The heat inside was turned up, and hot air was pumped between the roof's layers, but that wasn't enough to keep it from giving out.

"There were no injuries, which we're thankful for," said Bill Lester, the MSFC's executive director.

The game between the Vikings and Giants had already been postponed by 31 hours, after Saturday's blizzard kept the Giants from getting to Minne-

apolis on time. They stayed the night in Kansas City instead.

The city got 17.1 inches of snow during the storm that started Friday night and ended around 10 p.m. Saturday, said James McQuirter, a National Weather Service meteorologist. He said the storm was one of the five largest to hit the Twin Cities. Some surrounding communities got more than 21 inches of snow, McQuirter said.

The Metrodome roof is 10 acres of Teflon-coated fiberglass that is supported by 20 90-horsepower fans. It weighs roughly 580,000 pounds. Maki said they keep some replacement fabric in stock with Birdair, and that the MSFC has received offers of extra material from officials in Syracuse, N.Y., and Detroit.

Maki said he didn't anticipate any problem with the cleanup of the turf or the rest of the stadium. It'll just be a matter of getting that white, puffy roof up again to cover the field and frame the east side of the city's skyline.

"I remain optimistic, but we'll have to wait and see," Maki said.



# Streaks alive for Stoudemire and NY Knicks



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Amare Stoudemire scored 24 of his 30 points in the second half, Wilson Chandler made the tiebreaking 3-pointer with 30 seconds left, and the New York Knicks beat the Denver Nuggets 129-125 on Sunday for their first eight-game winning streak in 16 years.

Perhaps catching a break not to have been called for a second technical foul and ejected in the second quarter, Stoudemire set a franchise record with his eighth straight 30-point game. The more important streak for the Knicks is the winning one.

Winning for the 13th time in 14 games, the Knicks have won eight straight for the first time since Dec. 27, 1994-Jan. 13, 1995. At 16-9, they are off to their best start after 25 games since they were 18-7 in 1996-97.

Next up: showdowns with Boston on Wednesday and Miami on Friday as the Knicks try to show they can compete with the MNA's elite.

With most of the crowd at Madison Square Garden standing and chanting for the final minutes, Raymond Felton made four free throws in the final 15.6 seconds.

Chandler scored 27 points, and Felton had 19 points and a season-high 17 assists. Rookie Landry Fields scored 18 points and Danilo Gallinari had 16 for the Knicks.

Carmelo Anthony had 31 points and 13 rebounds in his return to the lineup after miss-



New York Knicks' Amare Stoudemire reacts during the second half of the NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets in New York, Sunday, Dec. 12, 2010.

ing two games with an inflamed right knee. Nene added 26 points but the Nuggets finished 1-3 on their road trip, with the

only victory coming in George Karl's 1,000th coaching win Friday at Toronto.

The Knicks seemed to be

going nowhere when a 120-118 loss in Denver on Nov. 16 dropped them to 3-8. But they have lost just once since thanks mostly to Stoudemire, awarded with "MVP! MVP!" chants against in the final minute.

He scored only six points in the first half and seemed frustrated about it, shoving Nene after fouling him in the second quarter. Already with an earlier technical, Stoudemire was lucky to avoid another and an early end to his streak.

Knicks coach Mike D'Antoni said the game was significant because it was the Knicks' toughest opponent since they started playing well, and it drew extra attention because of Anthony, who reportedly wants to play in New York.

Right now, the Knicks don't need him.

Anthony hasn't signed the three-year contract extension Denver offered him over the summer and there have been reports he wants to sign with the Knicks next summer as a free agent. He repeated Saturday that he hasn't made up his mind about his future.

The New York native received a loud ovation when the starting lineups were announced, but the crowd quickly swung back to the Knicks' side.

Held to six points on 2-of-8 shooting in the first half, Stoudemire scored 14 in the third quarter, when his jumper began falling to go with his attacks to the basket. The Knicks led 97-89 headed to the fourth, but he picked up his fifth foul with 10:40 remaining in the game

and headed to the bench.

## Lakers 99, Nets 92

At Newark, New Jersey, Kobe Bryant scored 25 of his 32 points in the second half and had two big assists in a late 8-0 run that led Los Angeles to its eighth straight win over New Jersey.

Lamar Odom had five of his 22 points in the late spurt and Pau Gasol had the other three in capping a 15-point, 11-rebound effort for the Lakers.

Brook Lopez had 25 points and nine rebounds for the Nets, who have lost seven straight and 9 of 11. Devin Harris added 16 points and 10 assists.

## Spurs 95, Trail Blazers 78

At San Antonio, George Hill scored 22 points as San Antonio won its fifth straight to become the NBA's first 20-game winner this season.

Manu Ginobili added 18 points and Tim Duncan had eight points and 13 rebounds in his 1,000th NBA game.

Wesley Matthews scored 17 points, while Brandon Roy was hassled into a 4-of-16 shooting performance and had only nine as Portland snapped a four-game win streak.

## 76ers 88, Hornets 70

At Philadelphia, Andre Iguodala and Lou Williams sparked a 17-2 run spanning the first and second quarters that catapulted Philadelphia to its fifth win in seven games.

Williams finished with 17 points, Elton Brand had 15 points and 13 rebounds for his

eighth double-double of the season, and Iguodala had 16 points and 10 assists.

Chris Paul scored 25 points and David West was held to just nine on 2-of-10 shooting for New Orleans, which lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

## Magic 94, Clippers 85

At Los Angeles, Dwight Howard scored 22 points to help Orlando beat the Los Angeles Clippers and end a four-game losing streak.

Jameer Nelson added 17 points, Vince Carter 13, and Brandon Bass had 13 points and a career high-tying 11 rebounds for his first double-double of the season.

Blake Griffin had 27 points and 16 rebounds for his 18th double-double, and Eric Gordon scored 28 points for the Clippers, who lost for the eighth time in a row to Orlando.

## Thunder 106, Cavaliers 77

At Oklahoma City, Kevin Durant scored 25 points, and Jeff Green and James Harden added 19 apiece as Oklahoma City send Cleveland to its eighth straight loss.

The Cavaliers fought back from a 22-point, first-half deficit to briefly get within nine. But Oklahoma City closed the third quarter on a 19-1 run and stretched its lead to 30 in the fourth.

Anthony Parker led Cleveland with 12 points and Daniel Gibson scored 11 and Anderson Varejao had a season-high 16 rebounds.

# Crawford hopes to add to Red Sox left-field legacy



**BOSTON** (AP)—Carl Crawford was hoarse when he spoke at his Red Sox introduction.

Otherwise, he's pretty much perfect for them.

"I don't know where that came about," the speedy Crawford said Saturday, his words slow and scratchy. "I can't believe it happened at this moment."

And what a moment it was for Boston as the four-time All-Star buttoned up his white Red Sox jersey with his familiar No. 13 on the back at the official announcement that he had signed a seven-year deal as part of what may be baseball's best lineup.

"He's one of the most dynamic players in the game," manager Terry Francona said. "He can change the game all the time—on defense, on the bases, at the plate—and not a lot of players can do that. He's a really special player."

This year, Crawford won his first Gold Glove, stole 47 bases and posted career highs of 19 homers and 90 RBIs. He hit .307, the fifth time in six seasons he was over .300. He also led the AL with 13 triples. He's led the league in stolen bases four times in his nine seasons, all with Tampa Bay.

Now add that to slugging first baseman Adrian Gonzalez, traded from the San Diego Padres a week earlier, Kevin Youkilis, Dustin Pedroia and David Ortiz, and opposing pitchers may not enjoy taking the Fenway Park mound with the short right field foul pole and the high Green Monster in left.

"Before the season even starts you tell in your

mind 'World Series, postseason, all that stuff' with Boston," the 29-year-old Crawford said. "You know it actually might happen."

Crawford had reached a preliminary agreement Wednesday night on a \$142 million contract after becoming a free agent. Gonzalez, 28 and entering the last year of his contract, is expected to sign a seven-year extension in 2011.

Pedroia is signed through 2014 with a club option for 2015, Youkilis' deal runs through 2012 with a club option for 2013, and center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury can't become a free agent until after the 2013 season.

That's five key players the Red Sox could keep for three more years.

"It's a pretty rare opportunity," general manager Theo Epstein said, "for an organization to add two of the best players in the game, in my opinion, under 30 to a core that I feel is already young and in its prime."

Beset by long-term injuries to Pedroia, Youkilis and Ellsbury, Boston finished third in the AL East behind the Rays and New York Yankees. The Red Sox also got subpar seasons from starters Josh Beckett and John Lackey.

Comebacks from that group would enhance prospects for winning the division and returning to the playoffs after last season's absence.

Ellsbury, with a total of 120 stolen bases in 2008 and 2009, was limited to 18 games last season because of rib injuries. Almost fully recovered, he and Crawford, called by Epstein "a game changer," could provide a speedy one-two punch at the top of the order. Crawford said he doesn't mind where he hits

in the lineup and Francona indicated it would be second or third.

"Our best team is when Jacoby's hitting first," Francona said.

The Crawford-Ellsbury combination could be just as impressive on defense.

"I know there's a bunch of historical names and I just want to be part of that" group of Red Sox left fielders—Ted Williams, Carl Yastrzemski, Jim Rice, Manny Ramirez, Crawford said. "Hopefully, I can go down as one of the best left fielders that played here."

Red Sox scout Allard Baird attended most of his games in the second half last season. On Nov. 30, Epstein and Francona met with Crawford and his agents Greg Genske and Brian Peters in Houston, Crawford's hometown.

"We felt like we had made a connection with Carl at the meeting and that he was really intrigued by being part of our lineup, especially after we traded for Adrian," Epstein said.

The Los Angeles Angels were the other serious bidder, but Crawford said he preferred to stay in the AL East.

"I have a 6-year-old son. I think he was a closet Boston fan," he said. "When I told him I was coming to Boston he was more excited than me. And that's when I knew I had made the right decision."

Overshadowed by the signing of Crawford was the return of catcher Jason Varitek, 38, to the team for a 14th season on a \$2 million plus incentives, one-year deal announced Friday. He's expected to share playing time with and be a mentor to 25-year-old Jerrod Saltalamacchia.

"More than any time in my career, I had probably the most interest from other teams," Varitek said. "It's awesome (to be back)."

Now he doesn't have to try to throw out Crawford, who stole six bases against him in one game in 2009.

"He probably the most athletic player that's in the game," Varitek said. "Him on the bases speaks for itself. Him running down balls speaks for itself."

Crawford will get many more cheers from the daily sellout crowds at Fenway than at his sparsely attended Rays home games.

"There's going to be a lot of screaming and hollering, so that's one thing that gets you up and keeps you going," he said. "They can boo somebody else now. I took my share out there in left field. It was torture."

Crawford receives a \$6 million signing bonus, with \$1 million payable within 30 days of approval and the rest in \$1 million installments on the first day of five consecutive months starting in May.

He gets salaries of \$14 million next season, \$19.5 million in 2012, \$20 million in 2013, \$20.25 million in 2014, \$20.5 million in 2015, \$20.75 million in 2016 and \$21 million in 2017.

Crawford would earn a \$50,000 bonus each time he's an All-Star; \$100,000 each for Gold Glove, Silver Slugger and World Series MVP; and \$75,000 for league championship series MVP. He would get \$200,000 for winning the MVP award, \$125,000 for second, \$100,000 for third, \$75,000 for fourth and \$50,000 for fifth.

He also receives a limited no-trade provision. Boston designates 28 teams he can be traded to without his consent and Crawford can eliminate two of them.



# Japanese wins \$68K in Black Jack Championship

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Japan's Kohara Naoki topped a field of 106 competitors in the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's bi-annual Black Jack Championship held over the weekend.

The players were divided into three preliminary heats last Saturday where the Top 49 competitors advanced to Sunday's semifinal round. Players started with a bank of \$3,000 worth of chips in both the preliminary and semi-final rounds. In all rounds, including the finals, players played through two shoes containing eight decks.

After the conclusion of the afternoon semifinals, Naoki, Indo Mitsuaki, Takashima Akira, Endo Chiharu, Kawada Hiroe, Kawai Hideo, and Tsuruta Naoyuki, all from Japan, made up the final table. Players started with a bank of \$5,000 worth of chips.

About 15 minutes into the action Naoyuki, by far the most aggressive player at the table, was the competitor to be eliminated. He won \$1,000 and broke even for his final table appearance.

Then a few hands after the start of



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Black Jack Champion Kohara Naoki, fourth from right, and runner-up Indo Mitsuaki, fifth from right, pose with family and friends during the awarding of trophies and cash prize checks for the tournament last Sunday at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

the second shoe, Hideo was knocked out and had to settle for the \$1,000 consolation prize; the remaining five players battled it out to the finish.

Naoki was in fifth place at the start of the last four hands of competition. He led out with \$100 bet and lost. Then with just two hands left, Naoki gambled and shoved in a big \$700 bet that found a stroke of luck.

Now with a \$4,400 stack and in a tie for third place with Hiroe on the last hand,

Naoki bet \$500 and was dealt a 13.

With the dealer showing a 5, Naoki doubled down and drew a 6 to give him a 19. Hiroe bet \$350 and was dealt a 12; he also doubled down. Hiroe then drew an Ace that left him with 13. The dealer showed a 15 and then drew a 2 to make 17.

Notably, Akira was the chip leader at the table for the majority of the match, however he elected to play it safe and only bet \$25 on the final hand. Akira

goal in the 64th minute.

Wild Bill's tried to mount a comeback after trailing by three, but fell short, as only Thoensaket scored 10 minutes before the game concluded.

Meanwhile, BDS Guangdong finished fifth in the 10-team competition after beating Independents FC in a consolation game last Thursday, 4-2.

Independents drew first blood in last week's match with Young Sin Lee scoring before Min Joong Kim evened

awardee, finished only third this season with his 16 goals. Park placed fourth with 13, while Paire Red's Hunter Jewell completed the Top 5 with his eight goals.

Rounding out the Top 10 were MP United's Dakota Hall (7), Paire Black's Joel Fruit (7), Tan Holdings' Michael Park (6), and Matansa's Jireh Yobech (5) and David James Bucayo (5).

In the women's division, Andrea Camacho claimed the Golden Boot award for the second straight season.

ners and 11 markers with Wilton as his teammate. Lisua ended up at third with 39 points, while Wilton placed fourth with his 33 markers.

In the girls division, only 12 players showed up and they played in a round-robin game with the Top 8 scorers moving to the semifinals.

The semifinalists were then grouped into two with Phalai Prink, Michelle Ngirbabul, Kristine Gueverra, and Tara Manglona making up Pool A. Pool B had Soll, Toni Yamada, Rikka Kaijo, and Jamata Castro.

Prink and Ngirbabul scored 47 and 43 points in the semis, respectively, to make it to the finals, joining the company of Pool B Top 2 finishers Soll (45)

and Jess Stoll, who had 15 markers apiece.

The regular season games in the Memorial Cup continue tonight with a 45A pairing between Brotherhood and Kitty Kat Ferrera Builders, followed by a 40A tiff featuring Island Apparel and the Ol' Aces.

## First Game

**Taga Security 66** – Macoto 24, Ebuén 17, Anasan 4, Bucalig 4, Dequito 4, Puno 4, Morales 3, Culala 2, Flores 2, Valdez 2.

**Top 45 61** – Cosino 18, Luzama 17,

was dealt a safe 20, but still came in third behind Naoki and Mitsuaki.

With a much meatier bet, Mitsuaki drew a 21 on the last hand and slid into second place.

Naoki won \$68,000 for topping the tournament, while Mitsuaki took the \$24,000 runner-up prize, and Akira had an even \$10,000 for third place. Hiroe and Chiharu broke even with \$1,000. Besides the cash prizes, the Top 3 finishers were also presented with trophies.

## Baccarat tourney on Jan. 15, 16

In other news, TDHC will also be hosting its Baccarat Challenge on January 15 and 16.

The event package also costs \$1,000, which includes entrance into the tournament, a two-night stay at the TDHC, free meals, cocktails during the tournament, and round trip airfare to and from Saipan.

At least 100 are expected to compete in the Baccarat Challenge, where the cash prizes depend on the size of the overall turnout. Trophies will also be awarded to the Top 3 finishers.

up the game at the break with his goal in the 25th minute.

BDS-Guangdong then grabbed the lead, 2-1, off Hang Guo Piao's goal in the 46th minute and seven minutes later, Hak Soo Lee scored, too, for the team's 3-1 advantage.

Gwang Sik Kim moved BDS-Guangdong further, 4-1, when he found the back of the net in the 67th minute. In the 71st minute, Lim scored for his second and last goal.

Camacho, who had U14's best 12 goals last spring, collected 15 this season to beat teammates Tahlia Hideo and Doreen Ravell. Hideo nailed 10 goals going into Matansa's title game against Paire last Saturday where she scored another goal for the team's victory. Ravell gained eight.

Paire's Tricia Ingram finished fourth with six goals, while Matansa's Chelsea Leskosek and Paire's Jackie Saralu were tied for fifth with three goals apiece.

and Yamada (40).

In the finals, Soll earned 15 points each when she partnered with Frink and Yamada, and 13 with Ngirbabul to tally 43 points, three points more of runner-up Frink.

Frink gained 15 points each after playing with Soll and Yamada and 10 with Ngirbabul. Yamada and Ngirbabul finished third and fourth, respectively with 38 and 31 points.

Meanwhile, NMIVA thanked Fiesta Resort's Elena Soll and Lucio Aldan for making the one-day event possible. The association also acknowledged J.R. Gechig, John Nekaifes, and Mili Saiki for helping organized the competition.

Berline 13, J. Diaz 8, F. Palacios 4, Takai 1.

**Scoring by quarters:** 13-22, 31-34, 48-47, 66-61.

## Second Game

**The House 96** – T. Diaz 35, G. Masga 20, Abedes 14, Tudela 10, F. Palacios 6, Berline 3, Pineda 3.

**Islander Rent-A-Car 77** – J. Palacios 15, Stoll 15, Surima 9, Villegas 8, Darag 6, Dionisio 6, Villasan 6, Calvo 4, Tipples 4, Pacheco 2, Lopez 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 22-14, 48-33, 78-55, 95-77.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	19	4	.826	—
New York	15	9	.625	4 1/2
Toronto	9	15	.375	10 1/2
Philadelphia	7	15	.318	11 1/2
New Jersey	6	17	.261	13

#### Southeast Division

Miami	17	8	.680	—
Orlando	15	8	.652	1
Atlanta	16	9	.640	1
Charlotte	8	15	.348	8
Washington	6	16	.273	9 1/2

#### Central Division

Chicago	14	8	.636	—
Indiana	11	11	.500	3
Milwaukee	9	13	.409	5
Cleveland	7	16	.304	7 1/2
Detroit	7	18	.280	8 1/2

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

##### Southwest Division

San Antonio	19	3	.864	—
Dallas	19	4	.826	1/2
New Orleans	14	8	.636	5
Memphis	10	14	.417	10
Houston	9	14	.391	10 1/2

##### Northwest Division

Utah	17	8	.680	—
Oklahoma City	16	8	.667	1/2
Denver	14	8	.636	1 1/2
Portland	12	11	.522	4
Minnesota	6	18	.250	10 1/2

##### Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	16	7	.696	—
Phoenix	11	12	.478	5
Golden State	8	15	.348	8
Sacramento	5	16	.238	10
L.A. Clippers	5	19	.208	11 1/2

#### Yesterday's Games

New York 129, Denver 125  
Philadelphia 88, New Orleans 70  
L.A. Lakers 99, New Jersey 92  
San Antonio 95, Portland 78  
Oklahoma City 106, Cleveland 77  
Orlando 94, L.A. Clippers 85

### NFL STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New England	11	2	0	.846	415	276
N.Y. Jets	9	4	0	.692	273	242
Miami	7	6	0	.538	225	244
Buffalo	3	10	0	.231	256	339

##### South

Jacksonville	8	5	0	.615	295	331
Indianapolis	7	6	0	.538	347	318
Houston	5	7	0	.417	288	321
Tennessee	5	8	0	.385	291	265

##### North

Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	290	198
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	260	201
Cleveland	5	8	0	.385	235	252
Cincinnati	2	11	0	.154	262	345

##### West

Kansas City	8	5	0	.615	295	268
San Diego	7	6	0	.538	354	253
Oakland	6	7	0	.462	314	307
Denver	3	10	0	.231	269	376

#### NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	9	4	0	.692	374	308
N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	308	247
Washington	5	8	0	.385	238	310
Dallas	4	9	0	.308	321	366

##### South

Atlanta	11	2	0	.846	335	243
New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	330	240
Tampa Bay	8	5	0	.615	260	267
Carolina	1	12	0	.077	164	338

##### North

Chicago	9	4	0	.692	253	228
Green Bay	8	5	0	.615	306	189
Minnesota	5	7	0	.417	227	253
Detroit	3	10	0	.231	285	309

##### West

Seattle	6	7	0	.462	261	329
St. Louis	6	7	0	.462	245	268
San Francisco	5	8	0	.385	243	280
Arizona	4	9	0	.308	243	351

#### x-clinched playoff spot

#### Yesterday's Games

Tampa Bay 17, Washington 16  
Buffalo 13, Cleveland 6  
Detroit 7, Green Bay 3  
Jacksonville 38, Oakland 31  
Pittsburgh 23, Cincinnati 7  
Atlanta 31, Carolina 10  
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota, ppd.  
San Francisco 40, Seattle 21  
New Orleans 31, St. Louis 13  
San Diego 31, Kansas City 0  
Arizona 43, Denver 13  
New England 36, Chicago 7  
Miami 10, N.Y. Jets 6  
Philadelphia 30, Dallas 27

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## MP UNITED

From Page 28

with Shunji Nagayasu breaking the ice for Inter Godfather's in the 24th minute. Seven minutes later, Jun Woo Lee put KFAS in the scoreboard with his goal in the 31st minute.

In the second semis match, Joe Le-Vahn had a hat-trick for MP United, as he outgunned Jeeraphong "Jack" Thoensaket, who scored all two goals

## JOYNER

From Page 28

striker tied Cheon's output when the former scored the first goal of the game off a breakaway in the first half.

After the first half, Cheon's Golden Boot award was still safe, as MP United's next two goals came from Joyner's teammate, Chris Park.

However, Joyner crushed Cheon's dream of getting the coveted individual plum when the MP United striker

## NMIVA

From Page 28

semifinalists and finalists. Players can get as much as 15 points (for a win) per game.

In the boys division, the 16-player field was divided into two pools. Pool A had Joemil Lisua as top finisher with 74 points, followed by Jason Limes (70), Mikhael (67), and McCullough-Stearns (64). Jeffrey Sachuo ruled Pool B with his 71 points, followed by Anthony Wilton (63), Josh Borja (60), and Y.J. Nakayama (59).

All eight advanced to the semis and played three games each. In the semifinals, McCullough-Stearns collected

recovered a loose ball and scored his second goal of the game at the start of the second half and 19th for the season, passing latter's record. Cheon tried to make it to the scoreboard in the second half, but failed, as he lacked support from his teammates. Paire started the game with eight players and was down to seven midway in the second half.

Joyner was awarded a plaque for his feat.

Matansa Football Club's Sean Perez, last spring's Golden Boot

the most points with 48 to march to the finals where he was joined by Lisua (48 points), Borja (42), and Wilton (38).

The four finalists then played three more matches with McCullough-Stearns topping the field anew, with his 43 points to get the Prince of the Beach crown. McCullough-Stearns got 15 points each when he teamed up with Borja in the first game and won and then partnered with Lisua and prevailed again. McCullough-Stearns's lone loss came when he joined forces with Wilton in the third game and the former settled for 13 points.

Borja finished second with 41 points, getting 15 markers each when he had McCullough-Stearns and Lisua as part-

The House kept pushing the pedal in the second quarter en route to a 48-35 advantage at halftime. Tony Diaz led the charge for The House with 13 points in the second quarter.

Diaz added 14 more points to his total in the third quarter, as The House padded their lead to 23, 78-55. Diaz drew support from teammate George Masga in the third canto with the latter chipping in eight points.

The House never looked back in the fourth quarter. Diaz led all scorers with 35 points, outgunning Islander's top scorers Jack Palacios

## TAGA

From Page 28

Macoto and Ebuén combined for 41 points for Taga, besting the 35-point production of Top 45's Luzama and Ed Cosino.

## The House whips Islander

In the 40A game, The House dominated Islander Rent-A-Car, 95-71.

George Masga and Jun Abedes teamed up for 11 points in the opening period, as The House broke away with a 22-14 lead.



# 2010 NMIFA Youth Fall League Girls U14 Finals

PHOTOS by ROSELYN B.MONROYO



A Paire goalie kicks the ball out.



Matansa and Paire strikers kick the ball.



Paire players huddle before the start of the second half of their title game against Matansa.



Members of the Matansa Football Club U14 team and coach Lindsay Davis pose with their championship trophy during the award ceremony for the 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



A Matansa player in action during their championship game against Paire.



Andrea Camacho shows her golden boot award.



A Paire goalie has all eyes on the ball.



Paire and Matansa players in a foot race for possession.



Matansa and Paire players shake hands after their championship game. Matansa won, 1-0.





**Streaks alive  
for Stoudemire,  
Knicks**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Brady, Patriots  
pound Bears,  
36-7**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2010

## MP United vs Inter in FA Cup finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

**M**P United and Inter Godfather's posted similar semi-finals wins to set up their championship duel for the 2010 NMIFA Men's FA Cup this Sunday.



Inter Godfather's played in the first semis game last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field and defeated Korean Football Association on Saipan, 4-2, to notch the first finals berth. The second finals seat went to MP United, which recorded a similar 4-2 triumph against Wild Bill's.

The championship game will be played this Sunday later in the afternoon. Games in the FA Cup are usually played after lunch, but since this weekend will be the championship round, NMIFA is hoping to schedule the title game and the consolation match at 6pm and 4pm, respectively, to draw more spectators and allow strikers to play in a much cooler condition. Losers in the semifinals, Wild Bill's and KFAS, will battle for third place.

Inter Godfather's advanced to the finals after drawing pair of goals from Chris Nelson. Nelson had both goals in the second half with his first helping Inter Godfather's break the 1-1 deadlock. Nelson scored his first goal in the 51st minute



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Nick Swaim, right, kicks the ball against a Wild Bill's defender during their semis game in the NMIFA FA Cup last Sunday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

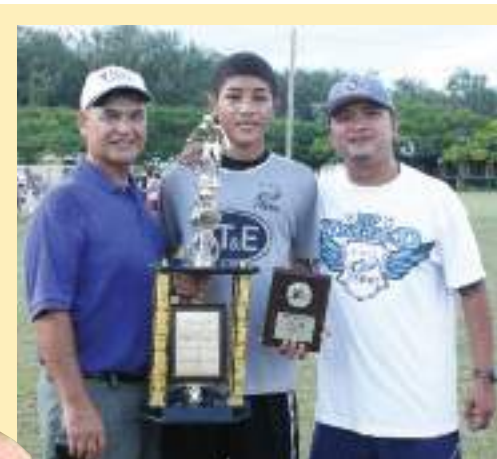
and five minutes later, he found the back of the net again to give Inter Godfather's a 3-1 lead.

KFAS threatened at 2-3, when Jin Koo Cho scored in the 72nd minute. However, Inter Godfa-

ther's was quick to retaliate with Matthew Holley lighting up the scoreboard in the 74th minute.

Both teams scored one goal in the first half

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Golden Boot awardee Jahn Joyner is flanked by MP United coach Norman del Rosario, right, and NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas during the award ceremony for the fall league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field last Saturday.

## Joyner, Camacho take Golden Booth awards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

MP United's Jahn Joyner stole the Golden Boot award from Jeff Cheon after scoring two goals in their title game against Paire Football Club-Black in the U14 division 2010 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Entering last Saturday's championship match, Joyner had earned 17 goals against the 18 of Paire Black's Cheon. The MP United

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## Taga Security hands Top 45 first loss

By WALTER SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Taga Security pulled off an upset against erstwhile leader Top 45, 66-61, during their game in the 45A division of the 2010 Master Basketball Federation of the NMI's Memorial Cup last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Taga notched its second win in as many games, while Top 45 absorbed its first loss in five matches. It was a come-from-behind win for Taga Security, as Top 45 controlled the game in the first half.

Tony Luzama lit up the scoreboard with 14 points in the opening period to give Top 45 what looked like a promising lead, 22-13.

Luzama sat out in the second quarter, allowing Taga to get back in the game. Adonis Macoto tallied 10 points for Taga in the second canto, helping trim the deficit at halftime, 31-34.

After the break, Sonny Ebuon took over from Macoto for Taga in the third quarter, scoring five markers



WALTER SUTHERLAND

Taga Security's Sonny Ebuon pulls up for a jumper against Top 45's Bruce Berline during their game in the Masters Memorial Cup last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

and lifting their team to a 48-47 lead, entering the final canto.

In the playoff period, Luzama was held to only a pair of free throw, while Ebuon nailed four free throws for Taga at the end to secure the victory.

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## NMIVA crowns Prince and Princess of the Beach

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Clay McCullough-Stearns and Jessica Soll were crowned Prince and Princess of the Beach after besting U18 players at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts last Saturday.

McCullough-Stearns collected 43 points in the finals to top the 16-player field, while Soll earned the same markers to rule the 12-player field.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association-organized tournament had a two-person beach volleyball format. Players then switched partners until they get to be paired with the rest of the field. After each game, players earned points to determine the

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Clay McCullough-Stearns, right, seen here joining forces with a teammate in returning the ball, was crowned Prince of the Beach during a NMIVA two-person beach volleyball tournament last Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

